BINGANG

Final Issue

This rare photograph from Helen Tolton's collection was published with this caption: AFTER A YEAR, BING IS BACK. Los Angeles, Aug. 12, 1974 — Bing Crosby pauses during rehearsal for his upcoming television special which will mark his return to show business after a year's absence.

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Memories . . . Memories

Readers Write

Ray Steele, Chilliwack, B.C.: I know that whatever *Bingang* magazine does [in the merger] will be in the best interest of everyone. We love the magazine, and thanks to all who make it possible.

Jessica Upton, Lehigh Acres, FL.: I am sad to hear that *Bingang* is at an end. I just wanted to let you know that I have enjoyed every issue I have received over the years.

Marion J .Thomas, Rio Rancho, NM.: I so much enjoyed the Winter edition of *Bingang* — hard to believe it's all winding up soon. And borrowing an old expression from Bob Hope: MANY THANKS FOR ALL THE GREAT MEMORIES!

Ned Putzell, Decatur, GA.: I'm really sorry to hear about the demise of *Bingang*. You've done an outstanding job with it and have given me many hours of pleasure.

Virgil Edwards, Eugene, OR.: You made mention of writing about favorite articles that have appeared in the past 66 years in *Bingang*. As poor as my memory is, I would have to peruse 22 years of magazines. However, I do remember a few articles in recent issues that I believe would be hard to top:

"Road To The Moon," by Bill Morrow.

"Road To Las Cruces," by Greg Van Beek.

"Bing Crosby, The Final Round," by Greg Van Beek.

"In Search Of Little Boy Lost," by Paul R. Michaud.

I'm sending seven CD's containing six hours of Bing's recordings that were broadcast by the local district FM radio station to commemorate Bing's 100th birthday anniversary. The broadcasts were made on three programs of two hours each on April 27, May 4, and May 11. The DJ's name is Lloyd Zimmer, and he was aided by his wife Mellisa. I believe Lloyd is a member of Club Crosby. The name of the program is "The Swing Shift," and Lloyd has been doing it for eight years.

[*Editor's Note:* Yes, Lloyd is a member of Club Crosby, and our thanks go to him for doing the program in such a top-notch manner, and to you, Virg, for making the CD's available to us.]

I can't say enough about the nice, friendly fans I met at the celebration. I must say that Ken Barnes and his lovely wife are two of the most gracious people I've ever met. I couldn't get over how humble and self-effacing he is for a man of his talent. He must have been a gem for Bing to work with.

Herb Heki, Urbandale, IA.: Sorry to see *Bingang* go, but the planned merger with the I.C.C. seems the best way to serve Bing. Thank all of you for the excellent job you have done.

Lorraine Myers, Lake Ronkonkoma, NY.: Your Winter issue was super, as it included so much of what happened at the Hofstra Conference in November. My husband and I attended all three days. It was great. The pictures of those who participated brought back happy memories. Thanks for including them in *Bingang*.

Frank A. Rogers, Yountville, CA.: What I will miss most, in the next few years, will be your friendly, extremely competent handling of the club's affairs. Thank you for your devoted service.

Shirley Naylor, Orange, NSW, Australia: I never thought I'd be writing an article after 54 years of membership for the LAST-EVER *Bingang*, Such a lot of water has PASSED UNDER THE BRIDGE. I've seen club presidents COME AND GO — then pass to the Men Folk. Some were OK, others NOT — made FRIENDS. Some stopped writing, but not me. A lot passed away.

Articles on Dixie's death; Bing's remarriage; births of Harry, Mary Francis and Nathaniel; Bing's illnesses, triumphant tours in England; tragic deaths of Linny, Dennis, and later Gary. Then Bing's death in Madrid October 1977 and true story of what happened there. I was lucky enough to see Gary in 1956 when he toured with Louis Armstrong. My trip to the STATES in 1980; visiting Tacoma; being shown round by the late Ken Twiss; being able to meet Priscilla Koernig and see her CROSBY room, shown around Washington, DC by Richard Pearson and his wife Barbara — at night a sight never to be FORGOTTEN and a LOVELY MEAL; taking a taxi to the cemetery and finding Bing's grave; history-making tour of Pebble Beach which had never been done before; my letters from Bing and Christmas cards and sending me one of his pipes.

Many THANKS to past and present committees for the excellent mags. Will give ICC a try. Best wishes to ALL THE MEMBERS.

Greg Van Beek, West Bend, WI.: Dear Bing Crosby Fans: It is with heavy heart that I write this letter to you, on the occasion of the final edition of *Bingang* magazine after 67 years of continuous publication.

Deciding what was best for the club to ensure its future when Mark Scrimger and Wayne Martin announced their retirement was a difficult one at best. Both worked very hard during their 17 years together at the helm of Club Crosby in making *Bingang* the fine quality publication we all expect.

Wayne especially has been a veritable iron-man, a "one-man band," if you will, who not only typed almost every page of the magazine, but also edited and did the layout work. He saw to it that the magazine was printed, that the envelopes were stuffed, addressed, and finally, that they were mailed safely to our doorsteps. If that wasn't enough, he also collected our dues and kept the club financially solvent.

For that I think both of these fine gentlemen deserve all the kudos and plaudits we can lavish upon them. They were definitely one-of-a-kind — and, as we found, irreplaceable. We all want to wish them the very best for their well-deserved retirements.

While we can all lament the end of an era, we can take comfort in the fact that the Club Crosby name will continue on, in the form of the International Club Crosby, and that the Club's rich legacy will endure; that we will still retain the title of the World's Oldest Active Fan Club. I do hope all of you will at least give the Club in its new form a try. The familiar writers and contributors you've been enjoying in the pages of *Bingang* are not disappearing. They will be a part of *Bing* magazine. We hope you will be, too.

Steve Ames, Springfield, NJ.: I couldn't make it to

Hofstra last fall, but reading about it in *Bingang* was the next-best thing to being there. Last year I saluted Bing at the Sons of the Desert Banquet in New York City by crooning two of his tunes. This year I celebrated Bing's centennial by saluting Bing on my TV show. I'm sending you a tape of the show.

[Editor's Note: And a great job you did, Steve! I thoroughly enjoyed listening to those beautiful old Crosby tunes as you interpreted them. Very nice!]

Warren Faue, Ventura, CA.: I'm sorry to learn that Club Crosby is merging with the ICC, but can certainly understand why. Thank you for the thousands of hours you have donated.

Lorne Harasen, Regina, Sask., Canada: I just wanted you to know that my wife and I returned yesterday from Gonzaga and the Crosby celebration. What you would not know is that I acted as MC or Moderator for the panel discussions on Saturday and Sunday. It was a wonderful weekend, and I have you to thank for alerting me to the fact that the celebration was coming.

The small campus and the short distances, plus the charm of that venue, added to the enjoyment. We laughed and we also shed a few tears. The basic goodness of Bing coupled with the realization that he was a genius all added to the atmosphere. His life was a gift to the world, and the fact that he is gone forces one to realize just how much we had when he was with us.

It was great to be with Kathryn, Buddy Bregman was a delight to work with, and Rich Little kept us in hysterics. Frank Sinatra, Jr. did a commendable job as speaker at the banquet. There were people there from Brazil, Denmark, Ireland, Britain, Italy and other places. I talked to some ICC people, and they are looking forward to the merger. The fact that Club Crosby has been around so long causes one to be concerned about the loss of such an institution, but nothing is forever.

Sam Fleshman, Vida, OR.: On the 14th of May, my wife and I were privileged to have Hobie and Cathie Wilson as overnight guests. The next morning Virgil Edwards arrived. The four of us caravanned to Spokane for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Bing's birth. We arrived about 4:30 in the afternoon. After getting set up in our apartments on the Gonzaga University campus, we went out to dinner.

The next morning was when all the fun began. We wandered around the campus to acquaint ourselves with it. Friday evening all the Crosbyites gathered at Bing's statue for a re-dedication ceremony. Gord Atkinson was the Master of Ceremonies, and Kathryn Crosby spoke a few words, as did Rich Little and others. All the while the thunder was booming.

Afterwards, there was a no-host reception in the Crosby room.

Some of the celebrities were Kathryn Crosby and members of Bing's family, Malcolm Macfarlane and Michael Crampton of the International Crosby Circle, Gord Atkinson, Rich Little, Buddy Bregman, Hobie and Cathie Wilson of the Bing's Friends and Collectors Society, and many good Crosby collectors from all over the world. I made some very fine acquaintances.

The seminars were well presented, the music on the campus was all Bing, and the movies were great. Everyone was congenial and sociable because we had a common denominator.

The University did an excellent job of organizing all facets of the celebration, except the Fathers had no pull with the Man Upstairs to shut off the thunder during the rededication of the statue.

We who stayed in the University housing were well-pleased with the accommodations. The banquet on Saturday evening was well-organized, and believe me the meat was out of this world. It was the first banquet I ever went to in my 78 years that the chicken was not like rubber. The entertainment was well-presented.

The people who didn't get to come do not know what they missed. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I would not have missed it for the world, an opinion shared by everyone who was there.. I promised my wife I would take her to the 200th celebration.

You can e-mail me at <drhaven@earthlink.net>,if any of you would like to make a comment.

Laurence J. Doyle, Hartsdale, NY.: I will miss the *Bingang* very much. Hopefully, the merged publication will contain the best of the two publications. Of course, it need only continue to provide good stories and current news to satisfy any Bing aficionado.

Since we will have the merged organization to meet our "Bing needs," there is much to look forward to. Thanks to all who worked so hard over the past 66 years. We will always be grateful for giving us so much.

Lenny Kaye, East Stroudsburg, PA.: Sorry to hear *Bingang* is approaching its coda, but I have enjoyed its camaraderie over the years.

Ewald Stechholz, Rockville, CT.: I have always found *Bingang* a little more interesting than the ICC publication *Bing*. Let's hope the merger comes up to the *Bingang* standards.

Bob Larsson, Newington, CT.: I've always felt that Bing's greatest strength—the reason for his success—lay not only in his prodigious talent but also in his nature, his honesty and his integrity, both as a performer and as a person.

I think the same can be said for Club Crosby and all of the people who though the years have devoted their talents and efforts to it. From the many visual treats to the information on "Things Bing," to the articles and stories, *Bingang* has always been a class act and will be remembered. that way. I look forward to the last issue of *Bingang* — and to the success of the new International Club Crosby Voice of Bing.

Father Robert Murphy, Grandview, MO.: Did your readers catch the "Lifefile" one-pager on Bing in the December 2002 issue of *Biography* magazine? *[Ed. Note: Reprinted in this issue]*. It was at least a tip of the hat to our friend on the 25th anniversary of his passing. I wrote the enclosed letter to the editor to thank them:

"I was pleased to see the December "Lifefile" on Bing Crosby. My vocation to the priesthood began when I first saw the movie *Going My Way*. I was so impressed with Bing's portrayal of Father O'Malley that I wanted to be the same kind of priest. As luck would have it, I came to know Bing and his wife Kathryn. They both had a love of family and faith and were very supportive of me throughout my time in the seminary and in my priesthood. I wish this said of the entertainer was more widely known."

Carmel Gallegos, Portland, OR.: Wayne, I am sorry that age and increasing ailments prevented both you and me from going to the splendid Crosby doings at Hofstra last November and at Gonzaga this May; yet Bing's sweet widow Kathryn has "linked" some of us—at least two similarly-named Crosbyists, Carmel and Carmela [Amari]. Separated by 3,000 miles and some 40 years in age, we are name-wise both under the banner of the Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel. Here is an excerpt from a letter I received from Carmela:

"Granddad Carmel: Hi, I have enclosed the papers you wanted autographed by Mrs. Crosby. Kathryn remembered you! She read all the papers you sent right in front of me in the car. It was a great day, one like I thought existed only in dreams. I went to the "Shore Hill Home" at 11 a.m. I was the first to meet Mrs. Crosby when she arrived. She hugged and kissed me, and I gave her a few gifts. She asked me to go with her, Martin McQuade and Senator Golden to all the stops they had to make. I was thrilled! We visited senior citizen homes and churches all around Brooklyn. Kathryn, Martin, and the Senator all had to make a speech and tell a story about Bing at each place. During Kathryn's speech she would introduce me and Martin to the audience. She told them that we were Big Fans who helped her a lot. She sang "Second Time Around" at almost every stop. She told the audience Bing had that song written for her. Granddad, talking and joking with all the people we met was an experience I shall never forget, especially the look on the people's faces as Kathryn talked and joked with them. Some actually cried."

Jane Fitzgerald, Cincinnati, OH.: Things have been bustling here lately. I recently gave a talk entitled "Bing Crosby, Irish-American Icon" at Thomas More College in Northern Kentucky and have been asked to present it again at the Cincinnati Celtic Music and Cultural Festival in September. I generally display part of my Crosby memorabilia collection there anyway, so it's a great opportunity to remember Bing and hopefully reach a few new ears, especially in this centenary year.

Diane Carnes, Sacramento, CA.: I always enjoy the *Bingang*. It's a wonderful publication, and it's wonderful to know that so many other people enjoy Bing as much as I do.

Mike Kaptanis, Yonkers, NY.: I am sure the "Bing at Hofstra" convention was a lot of fun. Although I live an hour away from the college I was only able to attend one day of the meetings. However, when I called the registration office they told me that they were only accepting three-day reservations. Unfortunately I could not make all three.

Jack Boyle, Westfield, NY.: Thanks for the wonderful work on *Bingang*—so well researched and always interesting and informative. I am looking forward to continuing good work with the merged clubs. Good luck!

Girvan Paterson, Victoria, Australia.: It was great to see four of the Mack Sennett shorts on DVD in reasonably good quality, but why didn't they include the other two and make it a complete set? It would have been so much more worthwhile! However, it is good to at least see some long-overdue movement in getting some of Bing's great film legacy onto DVD!

Perry Huntoon, Naperville, IL.: Here is an excerpt from a review I wrote of the latest Jonzo issues (Vols. 30-31) for the *IAJRC Journal:*

Quite frankly, much of the material to be heard on this recently-issued CD has no place being reviewed in a journal dedicated to jazz and will be properly ignored. Nevertheless, certain of the tunes reissued here are pertinent and should be noted.

More importantly, this series of limited editions of the complete Crosby discography is a work of such note that it needs to be more widely recognized and emulated for other deserving artists. Among the general public, Bing Crosby's jazz association is little remembered, thanks to Jack Kapp's policy of recording Bing on Decca in every conceivable setting and turning him into "Mr. Everyman." But, as Gary Giddins' masterful biography, *Bing Crosby: A Pocketful of Dreams, The Early Years, 1903-1940,* depicts, Bing's early career was heavily influenced by jazz and his association with such stellar performers as Bix and the Dorsey Brothers.

John McNicholas of England began his series of Bing reissues as LPs in the 1980s. After a hiatus, in which the CD revolution took place, he resumed the series; the earlier LPs have been updated and reissued on CD, and he has now issued 31 volumes *[Ed. Note: as of this writing, 33 volumes]* documenting every known take of any Crosby song through July 30, 1941. With extensive liner notes detailing each performance plus a running biographical sketch dovetailing with the dates of the recordings, these Jonzo issues are a work of art. Earlier volumes, featuring Bing's jazz side, as evidenced by recordings with Duke Ellington, the Dorseys, Paul Whiteman (with Bix), plus the classic Brunswick sides, are indispensable.

As to the current issues, Vol. 30 features the 5/26/41 session with Jack Teagarden with two tunes featured in the film *Birth of the Blues.* "The Waiter And The Porter And The Upstairs Maid," with Mary Martin and Jack also featured on the vocal is well-known to Crosby collectors. But the title song from the movie features Bing singing the seldom-heard verse, some fine trombone by Mr. T and solos by Danny Polo on clarinet and Ernie Hughes on piano. Bing is very much in his element singing with the Teagarden band.

Also of interest are the sides with the John Scott Trotter Eight. The songs "Be Honest With Me" and "Goodbye, Little Darlin,' Goodbye," come from Gene Autry, and the performances are comparable in style to the Decca pairings of Mary Lee with Bob Crosby's Bobcats in 1942, but with a far superior singer. Andy Secrest's cornet leads a Dixie-oriented accompaniment on these tracks.

Bing is paired with Woody Herman for the first time on Vol. 31. Woody used to joke that he was the "house band" for Decca in those days. But this is a fortuitous pairing taking place on 7/30/41. While the Burke-Van Heusen tunes are far from their best, the performances are spirited with Woody and Muriel Lane joining Bing on the vocals.

Far more successful are the pairings with the Woodchoppers. On "The Whistler's Mother - In - Law," Woody's clarinet and Cappy Lewis' trumpet are featured. Of note to either Herman or Crosby completists, two alternate takes, never before issued, are also included. The recording of "I Ain't Got Nobody" compares favorably with the earlier Sophie Tucker classic accompanied by Red Nichols, Miff Mole and Eddie Lang. Walt Yodel on bass and Tommy Linehan on piano keep the rhythm moving nicely on this number.

Those interested in either the current volumes or previous issues, while still available, should contact Jonzo Records, P. O. Box 212, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 7LD, England. American collectors may contact F. B. "Wig" Wiggins, 5608 North 34th Street, Arlington, VA 22207.

The Editor's Page

AS Editor of *Bingang*, I have frequently been asked (mostly by people who are not fans of Bing) "How do you find enough material to fill an entire magazine with articles about one person?" That has never been a problem. Our archives are full of materials that we were unable to use because of space limitations.

After all, Bing was a man of many talents. A top-rated actor, he appeared in so many films, many of them outstanding box-office hits. Such films as *Holiday Inn, White Christmas, Going My Way, The Bells Of St. Mary's*, and the *Road* series all brought Bing Crosby great fame and fortune.

As a recording artist, Bing had more No. 1 hits than anybody else has ever had (or ever will have!). His records sold literally by the millions. These records were played on juke boxes and in living rooms around the world. His name was as familiar in Singapore as it was in Cincinnati. A complete collection of articles and books reviewing or otherwise discussing his records would fill many volumes.

As a radio star, he had unparalleled success in reaching millions of people who loved him then and still love him now—many years after his death.

There was something about his voice that drew people to him. As one critic said, "You could warm your hands at the sound of his voice." He sang almost every type of song that you could think of—jazz, blues, "sentimental" songs, Irish, Hawaiian, country and western—the list could go on and on. He sang with most of the popular singers of his era—people like Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Rosemary Clooney, Mary Martin, the Andrews Sisters, Al Jolson, Connee Boswell, Peggy Lee, and many, many more. Bing is truly *the* singer of the twentieth century.

For sixty-seven years, this publication has followed and promoted Bing's career. It is very sad that this is the last issue of *Bingang*. It was a difficult decision to make, as Greg Van Beek wrote in his letter (page 4). However, we feel we have done the right thing. By combining the strengths of Club Crosby and the International Crosby Circle into one unified club, to be known as the International Club Crosby, we have increased our chances of keeping Bing in the public eye well into the 21st century.

Right now the public interest in Bing is higher than it has been for many years. Gary Giddins' wonderful book, *A Pocketful Of Dreams*, was a best-seller, and the second volume is awaited with eager expectation, not only by Bing's fans but many other music lovers. The conferences at Hofstra University and the centennial celebrations in Spokane, Milwaukee, and other cities were huge successes. We all feel very proud of that!

In his letter Greg spoke of me as a "one-man band." Well, that isn't really true (although I am touched and proud of the compliment) because without the help and hard work of a lot of other people there would have been no "music" for me to play. Mark, Crissi, Greg, David, Pete, and our beloved Charlie have all worked very hard to provide that "music" for me to use in the newsletter, as well as those who have contributed occasional articles for publication.

I am also grateful to our members who have supported us with their membership dues and encouraged us with their comments—some of them for over fifty years! It is our great pleasure to have three of our "Golden Girls" as contributors of material for this issue. Priscilla Koernig's article begins on page 8; Helen Tolton's rare photo of Bing is on page 2; and Shirley Naylor's letter is on page 4. None of our male members has ever admitted to being a "Golden Boy," but there are probably some, such as Carmel Gallegos, who would qualify for that term.

This issue covers the 100th birthday celebration at Gonzaga with a nice selection of articles, the celebration at Milwaukee, and a "surprise" celebration that you hadn't heard of before (see page 35). There are lots of pictures, and we hope that you will feel like you were "there," even if you couldn't attend any of the events. We feel sure you will also enjoy the other articles we have included, including Gord Atkinson's "Club Crosby On The Air" and the reproduction of the cover page from the 5th anniversary issue of *Bingang*. Be sure to read Mark Scrimger's letter on page 27. Although it was written for reading at the Gonzaga celebration, it tells us a lot about what Club Crosby has stood for all these years.

We haven't decided "who will be what" as far as the officers of the American Branch of the International Club Crosby are concerned, but we do have one announcement to make. Greg Van Beek will be our new archivist. I have been working on the archives and putting them into alphabetical order by subject. They are being fitted into large, loose-leaf binders with plastic protective sheets. There will be a lot of volumes!

I also wanted to mention that Charlie Baillie's Crosby collection is being divided among several members of the club. The "paper collection" (articles, photographs and such) has been donated to the club to be added to the archives. Mark Scrimger received Charlie's large collection of sheet music, and the CDs and LPs are going to the Irish Music Archives via Barry Stapleton. Our thanks go to Nancy Baillie and the family for their generosity; also to Janice Ballmer, Charlie's long-time secretary, for her help in sorting and shipping these precious items.

For the present, if you are submitting articles or letters for publication, send them to me at the usual address. I will look at them, perhaps do a little editing (but no typing!), and send them on to the U.K. Editor Malcolm Macfarlane will handle them from that point.

I have enjoyed being editor of the newsletter for the past 17 years. I wish I could continue to do it for a long, long time, but there comes the time when one realizes that he simply can't do what he used to do in an efficient manner.

My thanks go to all of you for your loving support of Bing Crosby and the Club Crosby for all these years. Your support has meant everything to Mark and me. None of it could have happened without your thoughtfulness and dedication to Bing.

I would also like to thank our printers, Gene-Del of Brentwood, MO for all their help in producing the newsletter. They have always done the best they could for us, even though some of the material submitted to them was not always ideal for printing purposes. They are celebrating their 30th year of business this month. We have been with them for about half that time.

My love to all,

Hayne

A Celebration of Bing's Life

By Priscilla Koernig

Photos by Pete Cakanic

ON May 13, 2003 Jenny and Alex Shilaff and I drove north from San Mateo to San Francisco to start our long journey northeast to our destination of Spokane, Washington.

We drove over the Golden Gate Bridge to Vacaville and then went north on State Highway 5 towards Oregon. We stopped for lunch in Corning, California, then continued north to Medford, Oregon, where we spent our first night.

The following morning we continued our journey east along the Columbia River to Tri Cities, where we spent our second night in Kennewick, Washington (just over the Oregon border). After having an excellent continental breakfast (choices of juices, coffee, eggs, waffles, muffins, and fruit) we continued our journey northeast to Spokane.

We arrived there around 12:00 noon on May 15th. Having excellent directions from Gonzaga University, we arrived at the college and parked near Dillon Hall, the dorm where we were to spend the next four nights.

After checking in, we proceeded up two flights of stairs to our rooms. Much to our surprise, our beds were three to four feet from the floor, like typical college dorms. We could just picture us senior citizens turning over in our sleep during the night and ending up on the floor!!! The students in charge were extremely helpful by getting a crew of young men to lower our beds. Problem solved.

Priscilla sits with Kathryn Crosby as she signs copies of her book. (Photo: B.F.C.S.)

Hobie and Cathie Wilson and Patti Dey in front of the Bing statue.

We had plenty of time to get acquainted with our surroundings, get rested from our approximately 1,000 mile trip, and find a place to have a nice dinner. Since we were the first ones to arrive on Thursday, we found that others were either coming in later that night or early Friday morning.

The Crosby Student Center (formerly The Crosby Library) was open and we were able to purchase our Crosby souvenirs that day. We also found out that the

Will Friedwald, jazz critic and author, was a panelist at the Gonzaga proceedings.

next three days were going to be extremely busy. Those in charge had wonderful activities planned for each day.

After checking in by phone with my friend Fritzi (who was staying at my home in San Mateo and taking care of my dog Katie), she told me that there was a phone message from Phillip Crosby telling me that his youngest daughter Mary and his son Phil would be going to the festivities. He wanted me to contact them by phone so that we could meet, and he was sure I'd want to see the Hayden Lake house, where they were staying during the celebration in Spokane.

On Friday, we walked to the Crosby Student Center again and looked at all the memorabilia on display and also saw other displays at the Foley Center Library and Administration Building.

Then we toured the Crosby Alumni House, the house where Bing grew up from age three. It has a beautiful large outside front porch. You walk in the front door and are in the living room, with the dining room to the left; the kitchen behind that; then a hall with a bathroom and another room in the back. You go upstairs to where seven bedrooms are, plus another bathroom.

We also enjoyed walking outside all around Gonzaga, as you could hear Bing singing over speakers surrounding you as you walked. I could have sat outside all day just listening to Bing, but at 2:00 p.m. we had to board a bus for an historic tour of Spokane (with Crosby highlights).

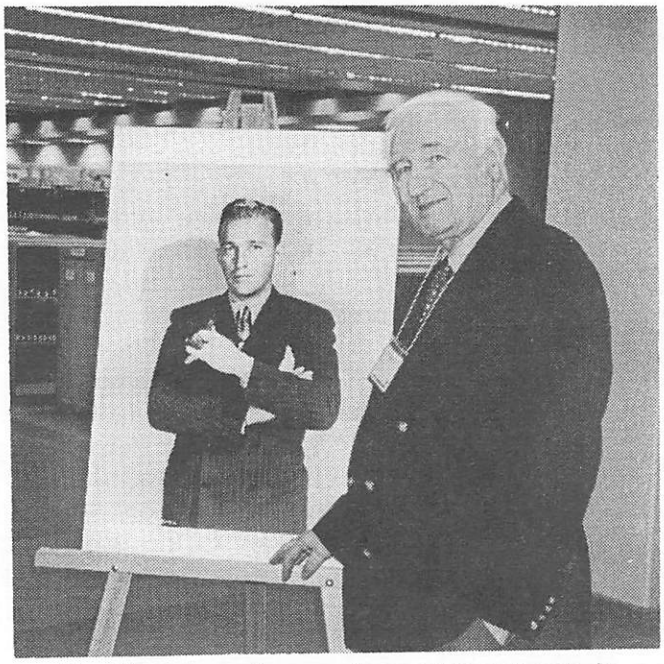
There were approximately 40-50 Crosby club members on the bus. The tour was okay, but disappointing, since we didn't get to see the Clemmer Theatre because the person who had keys to it didn't show up. Also, the tour guide didn't have all the Crosby facts correct, and there was too much commercialism telling about the Lilac Festival and other events that were also going on that weekend.

We returned to "our" dorm in time to rest and change outfits for the Crosby Statue Rededication Ceremonies at 6:30 p.m. This was presided over by President Robert Spitzer, S.J.; Father Bernard Coughlin, S.J.; the mayor of Spokane, John Powers; Gordon Atkinson, Master of Ceremonies; Rich Little; and Kathryn Crosby. After prayers and the people mentioned speaking, the new plaque at the bottom of the statue commemorating the rededication of the statue at the 100th anniversary of Bing's birth, was unveiled.

Then we all proceeded into the Rare Book Reading Room of the Foley Center Library for the "Moonlight Becomes You" reception. There was an ice sculpture of the Bing statue surrounded by long tables of finger food and champagne or punch. Mary and I had no problem finding each other. We also met Kevin Crosby, Lindsay's son. We found out that he had attended Gonzaga. Also there was Bing's nephew, Howard Crosby (Ted's son), Kathryn, Rich Little, Gord Atkinson, Buddy Bregman, Ken Barnes, and Gary Giddins. All of us Crosby fans had a wonderful time visiting with each other and with Bing's family.

On Saturday morning we attended the Kathryn Crosby presentation with Buddy Bregman at the University Chapel, Administration Building. Kathryn read excerpts from her new book *My Last Years With Bing* and then sang, accompanied by Buddy, "Swinging On A Star," asking us to sing along with her. Afterwards, I asked Kathryn if she'd mind signing my book then or

Standing, L to R: Rich Little, Fr. Bernard Coughlin. S.J., Gord Atkinson; seated: Kathryn Crosby and Robert Spitzer, S.J.



Ken Barnes, author and record producer, in front of one the great blowup pictures on display.

whether she wanted me to go to the other room where she was to be signing books. She said she'd sign it now, but asked me to follow her and "come sit with me" while she was autographing books.

Naturally, I did, and that was a lot of fun. It was very interesting sitting there and hearing all the various tales that fans told of their experiences regarding Bing. There was one lady, Mary Lynn Goodwin Hanley, daughter of Mary Louise and Wayne Goodwin, who attended the dedication of the Crosby Library in November, 1957, as an 11-year-old with her family. Her mom always teased her because Mary Lynn shook Bing's hand and didn't wash her hand for a month.

There were many wonderful stories like that during the two hours that I sat with Kathryn. I soon learned that I was to become very helpful to Kathryn, too, by being able to answer questions about Bing's career before she met him. I'm sure that after this weekend she became quite knowledgeable about Bing's career, as I was amazed to see that she, like us, was trying her best to attend all the events of each day.

At one point, Kathryn asked if I had a peppermint, and, fortunately, I had two unopened rolls of Breath Saver mints, a choice of either wintergreen or peppermint. She chose peppermint and commented that I was a "life saver" — no pun intended.

I was also able to talk to Gord Atkinson, who was signing his CD's near Kathryn. Gord remembered me from way back when I was in charge of Club Crosby.

It was around 1:45 p.m. when the final person got a book signed. One of the ladies in charge of the event asked Kathryn if she'd like to go upstairs for lunch. Kathryn invited me to go with her. I told her that I would love to go with her but couldn't because I had a 2 p.m. appointment with friends. I asked her if she'd like to take the peppermints with her, and she thanked me for them.

I walked very fast to our dorm to meet Jenny and Alex as we were to leave at 2:00 p.m. for Hayden Lake, Idaho. Phil had given me directions and had said that it was approximately a 35-minute drive from Spokane. We were to meet him at the club house at the golf course and follow him to the house, as "it's a little difficult to find." Since we're unfamiliar with the area, it took us an hour to get there, so it's good we allowed that much time. We did stop to get a map, and as we did it started to snow!!!

Needless to say, we found Phil in his silver car and followed him to the house. It's too bad it wasn't a sunny day, as the house is right on the lake We had a grande tour and a nice visit with Mary and Phil. The drapes opened from the dining room and living room so you could see the beautiful scenery and the lake. I was amazed to see that the drapes were still hanging with "Where The Blue Of The Night Meets The Gold Of The Day" musical notes on them. I could remember an *American Home* magazine article that I have in one of my many scrapbooks showing various rooms, but mostly I could remember those drapes. I will always cherish my memories of this experience.

We arrived back at Gonzaga in plenty of time to get ready for the big banquet. We walked into the Spokane Room of the COG building and found that most of our friends were already there. After finding whom we could amongst that huge room full of people, it was time to adjourn to the Montana Room for the "White Christmas Banquet." It was appropriately decorated with snow crystals and Christmas trees.

Gary Giddins, author of "Pocketful of Dreams," and columnist for *The Village Voice*

Gordon Atkinson was the Master of Ceremonies. Father Spitzer welcomed everyone, and grace was offered by Father Coughlin, S.J. Dinner consisted of asparagus, hearts of palm and mandarin orange salad with blood orange and spicy pecan dressing, followed by fresh herb and parmesan-crusted chicken with port wine sauce, wild rice with cranberries, fresh asparagus and rolls. There was plenty of your choice of red or white wine. Dessert was chocolate angel food cake with fresh strawberries and whipped topping.

Entertainment consisted of the talented Rich Little, Frank Sinatra, Jr. (a childhood friendship recollection with the three oldest Crosby boys, Gary, Phillip and Dennis). Lindsay was the youngest and just a "hi kid" to him. He gave a very intelligent talk about the Crosby / Sinatra friendship.

Kathryn Crosby was presented with an award in memory of Bing, a plaque which reads: "In Memory of Bing Crosby. Bing Crosby was truly the American Voice of the 20th Century from the Jazz Age through the Age of Aquarius. Bing Crosby was always proud of his Jesuit education at Gonzaga University and demonstrated his love by establishing the Crosby Library, now the Crosby Student Center, at Gonzaga; therefore Gonzaga University appreciates all that Bing Crosby has accomplished, both in his public and private life. Bing was a talented personality, artist, entertainer and humanitarian and Gonzaga's most renowned alumni. May 17, 2003. Signed, Robert J. Spritzer, S. J. President."

And the evening closed with a nice presentation of "Howard Sings Bing" with the Howard Crosby Band and Howard, himself.

Unfortunately, we had to miss the events at Gonzaga on Saturday from 1:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. because of our trip to Idaho. However, if I had to do it all over again, I'd make the same decision. Going to Hayden Lake was a special treat, and it was wonderful spending that quality time with Mary and Phil Crosby, thanks to their Dad.

On Sunday I attended mass at St. Aloysius Church at 8:30 a.m. with Cathie Wilson and June from Manchester, England. It was a special mass for our beloved Bing.

At 10:00 a.m. Jenny, Alex and I went to the Jepson Auditorium to view the Crosby statue dedication film from 1981. It was wonderful to see this again, as I spotted Pat Sullivan and myself sitting in the audience. We loved Rich Little's video tribute to Bing, also, as I hadn't seen that since it was telecast in the 70's.

I'm sorry that we had to miss Gary Giddins' lecture again on Sunday, but I wanted to go see my friend Bob Pasch's "A Tribute To Bing Crosby." And my choice was well worth it. Bob presents a very professional show along with the exceptional talents of Steve Gold.

Bob needed a fill-in to be shown while he made a costume change, so he had asked my permission to use some footage of my personal collection of movies that I had taken of Bing over the years.. He and Steve had done such a wonderful job of restoring them that I couldn't help shedding a few tears because of my wonderful memories. I even received a nice compliment from Kathryn, who was in the audience, about my movies. Bob's performance is a great tribute to Bing and to keeping his memory alive.

We then enjoyed seeing Bob DeFlores' video clips and the Family and Friends Discussion with Kathryn Crosby, Howard Crosby, Carolyn (Mary Rose's daughter), Mozelle Seger, Buddy Bregman, and Rich Little. Then we went to a special repeat showing of the KSPS Crosby Documentary Premier, which we had missed because of attending mass.

As we were all walking back to our dorms, we were invited by Cliff Brisbois to a dinner his wife Marion had been preparing all day while we were having fun at our Crosby events. Marion is a wonderful cook. We had cole slaw, Swiss steak, mixed vegetables, a choice of two or three different wines, and a melon/strawberry dessert with whipped topping.

Unfortunately, we missed seeing the bulletin board stating that dinner had been prepared by her on other nights, also. But I'm glad we knew of it that last evening in Spokane, as we thoroughly enjoyed spending time with Cliff and his wife, Bob DeFlores, Dieter Pressler, and all the other new friends we met.

We left Spokane early Monday morning on our trek to the Automobile Association first, then on to the highway that crossed the state of Washington, bypassing Seattle to go on to Highway 101 south through Washington and Oregon on the coast. Then down the Redwood Highway to home in San Mateo.

We arrived around 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21. (We had stopped one night in Aberdeen, Washington, and the other in Bandon, Oregon). When I opened my front door, there was an extremely happy, but crying, excited loveable little companion, my dog Katie. Her Mommy had never left her this long before. And I know I won't ever again. But this trip was definitely a chance of a lifetime. And I could never have done it without one of my best friends, Fritzi Henning (she and I have known each other since the seventh grade, but became good friends during our 50th class reunion and San Mateo High School's 100th reunion celebration) and my other two best friends, Jenny and Alex Shilaff, who drove over 2000 miles to help me celebrate Bing's life.

P.S. The only regret I have from the whole celebration is that I wasn't able to get videos of me while I was sitting with Kathryn and not being able to get more still pictures because of being too busy with my video camera. So, if anyone has any pictures to share, they would be greatly appreciated!

Editor's Note: Priscilla Koernig and her friend Pat Sullivan were in charge of Club Crosby and Bingang *for many years. It's nice to have her "back in print" again.*

Wisconsin Celebrates Bing Crosby's Centennial

By Greg Van Beek

THIS past April, Southeastern Wisconsin celebrated the life and times of Bing Crosby in grand fashion for the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth. There were features in newspapers and on the internet, as well as on radio and television, all capped off by a wonderful one-day conference with none other than our Honorary President, Kathryn Crosby, as the featured guest.

Since it was this mini-conference that brought about all of the other media events, we need to go back in time a bit — back to last November, when two fellow Wisconsinites met up in New York at the Hofstra Conference on Bing and American Culture. My friend Barry Stapleton, who is the director of the John J Ward, Jr. Irish Music Archives in Milwaukee, mentioned to me while we were browsing the Crosbyana display that he was going to organize a similar celebration for Bing, albeit on a smaller scale, at the Irish Fest Center in April and said he would like me to be a part of it. Of course I said I'd be delighted to be involved in whatever capacity he'd like me to be, and we agreed to meet soon after our return home.

It wasn't long after the euphoria of Hofstra subsided that I learned Barry intended to have Kathryn Crosby and arranger / conductor / director / producer Buddy Bregman as his featured guests for the Irish Fest celebration and that he had sent letters of proposal to both of them. Buddy tentatively agreed to attend very early on, but after several weeks Barry had not heard back

Mrs. Crosby examines the "Beloved Hymns" LP from Greg's dining room table display.

Part of Greg's magazine collection— on display for Kathryn Crosby's visit.

from Mrs. Crosby. I was able to help put him in contact with her, and via a phone conversation she happily accepted his invitation. We were both understandably excited at the news, and we both realized there would be a lot of work to accomplish in a relatively short period of time.

To get things rolling, Barry made the 40-mile trip north to West Bend and visited my home one Saturday afternoon in January. We had a nice visit, and after he saw my Crosby collection, we sat down to discuss what he had in mind for April. Knowing it was imperative to get as much publicity as possible to ensure a good turnout for the event, I compiled a list of possible radio, TV and newspaper outlets I thought might be interested in talking to either Buddy or Mrs. Crosby. Barry liked what I put together and passed it on to the archives' publicist, Marci Pelzer, who worked tirelessly throughout the ensuing months and did a fantastic job of spreading the word.

Another meeting followed in February, this time with me visiting Barry in Milwaukee at the setting of the forthcoming event set for April 12. Incidentally, the Irish Fest Center houses the John J. Ward, Jr. Irish Music Archives, as well as the Stapleton Bing Crosby Collection, the largest public Crosby record collection outside of the memorabilia housed at Bing's alma mater, Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.

In the weeks following our second meeting, I was

Greg's LP display for Kathryn on the dining room table

busy preparing a film presentation for the event, as well as compiling CDs to be used as background music and for upcoming radio promotion. The film proved to be the greatest challenge of all—how to cover a 50-year career in thirty minutes. Barry wanted to include a number of clips, both acting and singing, from Bing's Irish-themed films, as well as a good portion of material from Bing's early films, showcasing his scat singing abilities, in addition to duets with Rosemary Clooney. As a result, a number of the familiar old chestnuts had to be omitted, such as *White Christmas,* in favor ot other, possibly more obscure, excerpts.

By this point, things were falling into place nicely, and news of the event was spreading rapidly. Barry had assembled a display of Crosby memorabilia at the Wauwatosa Public Library, which helped a great deal. Early on, the event was added to the lineup on <onwis consin.com> and <onmilwaukee.com>, two websites devoted to happenings around the state and around the city respectively. By March 31st, Bing's photo headed a column appearing in the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* newspaper, followed by a large front-page spread in the CUE section of the Sunday, April 6 edition, written by noted journalist (and Crosby fan) Chris Foran. This piece, the most impressive of all the coverage of Bing's centennial and of the event, featured interviews with Gary Giddins, Steven Lewis (webmaster of the Bing Crosby Internet Museum), and Kathryn Crosby. As a result, there was excellent coverage in print of the celebration, which garnered an impressive turnout.

Soon the big week arrived, and with it came some very exciting and hectic days. Since Mrs. Crosby and I had become better acquainted in recent years, having met in person a few times and phoning each other on occasion, I arranged with Barry to bring her to my home in West Bend Friday evening to be interviewed with me for our local West Bend newspaper to promote the event. A reporter had been wanting to do a story on me for a couple of years, and I always kept putting him off until there was something more substantial to promote. With Bing's impending centennial, the celebration in Milwaukee, and Mrs. Crosby's visit, I felt the time was right. I spent all of the week prior to Mrs. Crosby's arrival arranging portions of my Crosby collections in several rooms throughout the house. Everywhere you turned, there was Bing!

Mrs. Crosby and Buddy Bregman both arrived late Thursday, April 10 so that they could spend Friday promoting the event on radio and television. Both had a very busy schedule, with Mrs. Crosby appearing on the local Fox TV network 7 a.m. news along with Barry. In addition to the centennial celebration, Mrs. Crosby was also promoting her fabulous new book *My Last Years With Bing.* Proving what a real trouper she is, she handled this early-morning interview with the same ease, grace and charm that endeared her to everyone she came in contact with throughout her stay in America's Dairyland.

From 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., I presented a program of Bing's duets on Tom Shanahan's Club 60 program over WTKM radio in Hartford, Wisconsin. I arranged for Kathryn to be our live call-in guest, and she proved to be a wonderful addition to the show and a great promoter for the celebration in Milwaukee. We opened the show with the Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire duet "Roxie," from the hit musical *Chicago,* which she loved. She has a very ingratiating, animated personality that puts everyone completely at ease.

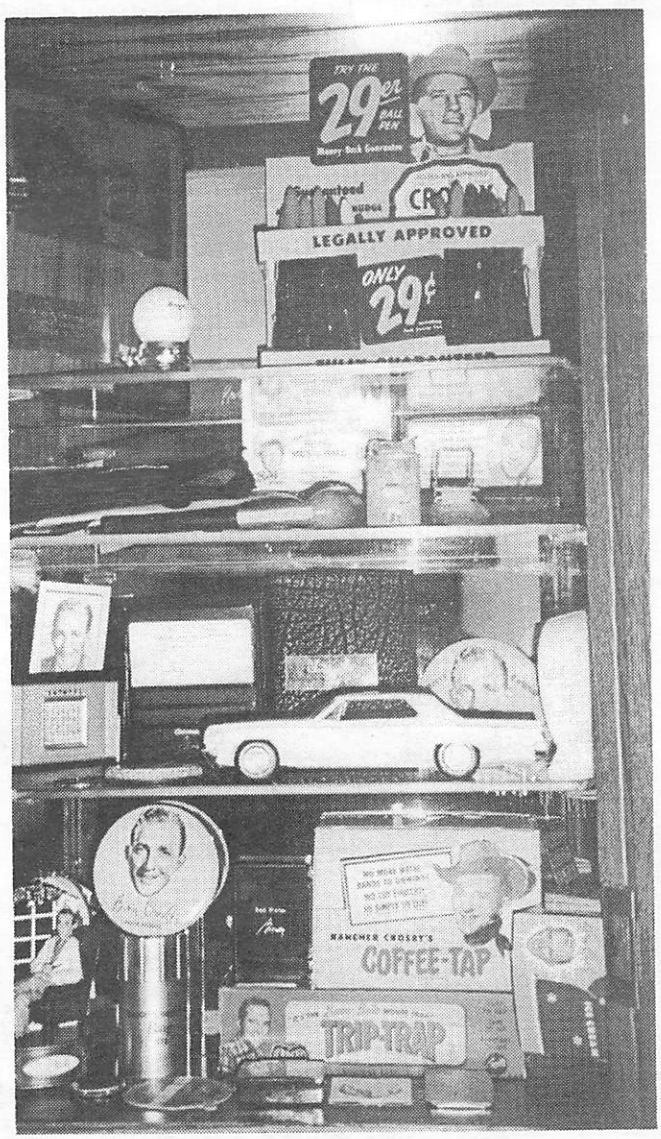
At 11 a.m., both Kathryn and Buddy appeared on the Milwaukee NBC-TV affiliate's newscast for a joint interview with a respected local news anchor, who seemed genuinely interested in Bing. As with her appearance on the Fox network, Mrs. Crosby proudly held her book up and paged through it, holding up various favorite photos so the cameraman could get a good shot of them. She's an excellent salesperson—without a doubt!

Following lunch and a brief respite, Mrs. Crosby, Barry and Buddy made their way to yet another radio interview at 2:00 p.m. for station WUWM. This interview was not broadcast live as were the others, but was taped for broadcast the first week of May to coincide

3 generations of Van Beeks (L-R: Greg, Ervin, and Tom) meet Mrs. Crosby at Greg's home.

with the actual date of Bing's centennial. Then it was off to station WOKY for a 3:00 p.m. interview with veteran Milwaukee broadcaster Bill Taylor. Bill is known for doing his imitation of Bing's speaking voice at the drop of a hat and wasted no time in doing so for Mrs. Crosby, who roared with approval. It was here that I met up with Mrs. Crosby.

After the interview at my home, my parents and grandparents and I planned to take Mrs. Crosby out for dinner to help us celebrate my grandfather's 87th birthday, which took pace April 12. I decided to use a conversion van to transport us all in comfort and style. Since I'm not accustomed to the area of Milwaukee where Mrs. Crosby was, my dad, Tom, became chauffeur for us. He and I traveled to the radio station and visited with Barry Stapleton outside the WOKY studio waiting for Kathryn and Buddy to finish their interview. Quite a crowd was gathering outside the studio door as word spread around the building that Mrs. Bing Crosby was inside. All waited patiently for a photo or autograph. She was most gracious and signed each one. I, in turn, got to meet Bill Taylor, who thanked me for providing him with a copy of Bing's recording of



Greg's display cabinet with Bing's pipe, neckties, Christmas trinkets, etc.

Part of the Stankowski's Bing sheet music display at the Irish Fest Music Arhives

"Straight Down The Middle," a song that is now played almost daily on WOKY.

After Mrs. Crosby emerged from the studio, we shared a happy reunion with a hug and headed out to the van as Barry and Buddy went on their own to see a bit more of Milwaukee and have dinner. Buddy had given Mrs. Crosby a copy of his Ella Fitzgerald *Rodgers And Hart Songbook* CD. (In addition to arranging and conducting Bing's classic 1956 Verve LP *Bing Sings Whilst Bregman Swings*, Buddy also did the same for Ella on her magnificent Cole Porter and Rodgers and Hart songbook albums.) So we popped it into the CD player in the van and headed for West Bend.

She and I chatted a bit about a friend who had sent some video tapes for me to pass on to her from his production company, which is interested in doing a project on Bing, and also about a few mutual friends. Then she decided to take a nap for the half-hour drive north to West Bend. She was understandably a bit tired, after already having had a full day of interviews.

Once we arrived at our home, she stopped for a moment as we were walking towards the front door and exclaimed what a beautiful home it was, larger than her ranch in Nevada. We went inside, and I introduced her to my mother, Barbara. We began to show her around the house, starting with some of the 10-inch and 78 rpm albums I had downstairs in the den, when Al Dunn, the reporter from the West Bend *Daily News* arrived with his wife, followed shortly thereafter by his photographer.

We all took a seat in our living room so that Al could ask Mrs. Crosby a few questions as I showed him a copy of her new book and *Bingang* magazine. Then, we headed to the dining room, where mom let me commandeer the table to display some of my 12-inch LPs. I chose some with the best color covers of Bing, which made for an impressive display. Mrs. Crosby said, "This is great. You know Bing hated sitting for album cover shots, so it's really nice to see all of these."

She picked up a few, notably the *A Couple Of Song And Dance Men* album (she's holding this LP in the photo which appeared with the West Bend *Daily News*

Irish Fest Music Archives panel discussion: Greg Van Beek, Kathryn Crosby.

article). She told us, "This one I remember well because I was there for it. Our son Harry was involved with the whole production of the album, and he was the only person who could say, "Uncle Fred, that doesn't sound quite right. Let's try that again."

When she spotted the 12-inch picture disc of David Bowie's most-famous duet, she remarked how she had asked David if he was ever poked in the eye. "David has one blue eye and one black eye, and he told me that as a boy he was poked in the eye with a pencil, which ruptured his pupil. He's blind in that eye." All the while we were chatting, the news photographer was shooting pictures of us.

We then made our way upstairs to where I had a display of Bing Crosby magazines. Mrs. Crosby thoroughly enjoyed seeing these, many of which were new to her. Pointing out an issue of *Family Weekly* from 1973 with a color photo of Bing and Mary Frances, she exclaimed, "Oh, I love this. I'd never seen it before." I showed her a Spring 1941 issue of *Bingang,* which was the fifth anniversary issue and featuring a letter from Bing, which she read.

I have Bing's copy of the script for the 1967 Hollywood Palace Christmas show, which was sold at the Butterfield auction in 1982. The script had written in ballpoint on the cover multiple times "Perino's Restaurant." She confirmed to me that it was Bing's handwriting and told me they had the best caviar in town. "When I was pregnant with one of the children, I had a mad craving for caviar, and that was the only place to get a certain kind."

A bit further down the hall brought her to my bedroom, where the bulk of my collection resides in a walk-in closet. Once there, I showed her a few more scripts from Bing's collection, one being from *The Road To The Moon,* a synopsis written for Bill Morrow for a proposed road film that never got on the road. Another was from the 1976 Bob Hope Olympic telethon special, which she paged through looking at Bing's notes. "Yes, he wrote this, but the other note was written by someone else." It was great having her there to confirm Bing's things!

Around this time, my grandparents, Ervin and Rosemary Van Beek arrived. I had told Mrs. Crosby it was Ervin's birthday the next day, so when she was introduced to him, she immediately burst into a chorus of "Happy Birthday," followed by a hug and kiss! This was the only time I've ever seen my grandfather blush! I showed Mrs. Crosby some of the products that Bing had lent his name to, like the mouse trap, coffee tap, 2-cup coffee pot, rainware, etc. She told me "That was all Everett's doings; he arranged all those things for Bing." When she saw I had one of Bing's neckties, she said, "You have a necktie? I got rid of dozens of those!"

Back downstairs, we all got together and posed for some of our own photographs, one being a rare three-generation shot with Mrs. Crosby. That has become a real keepsake for our family. I brought down one of my photo albums and showed her some of the handwritten letters I have that Bing wrote, in addition to my collection of Kathryn Grant film stills. That was a real trip down memory lane for her — recalling when they were done and from what film. "Oh, this was from my very first sitting," she remembered when she saw a particular series in a leopard skin bathing suit. "Those shots were published all across the country." She went on to say: If I'd known about all of these great color photos while I was writing the book, I would've raided your collection!"

By now it was time for us to make use of our dinner reservations. We chose a nice restaurant on Big Cedar Lake called the Linden Inn. It was an appropriate location, as my grandparents had their wedding reception there 59 years ago! In Wisconsin, a longstanding tradition is to go out for a fish fry Friday nights, so that's what we did. We all dined on perch and cod with the lake view providing us with gorgeous scenery. The conversation ran the gamut, alternating from news about the Crosby family to Ervin's 70 years of riding a motorcycle.

He mentioned to her that he had read that Arnold Schwarzenegger was running for office, to which Mrs.

Kathryn Crosby reading *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* article with Buddy Bregman

Crosby said, "Well, he's married to a Kennedy, so he must be a Democrat." This led me to inquire about Bing's relationship with President Kennedy. "They were casual friends, golfing friends only," she replied. We talked about the racehorse Seabiscuit and the rumor that this famous nag is entombed on their Hillsborough property. "Not true," said Mrs. Crosby. "The property was once much larger, and he is buried in a plot that doesn't belong to us." Another myth squelched!

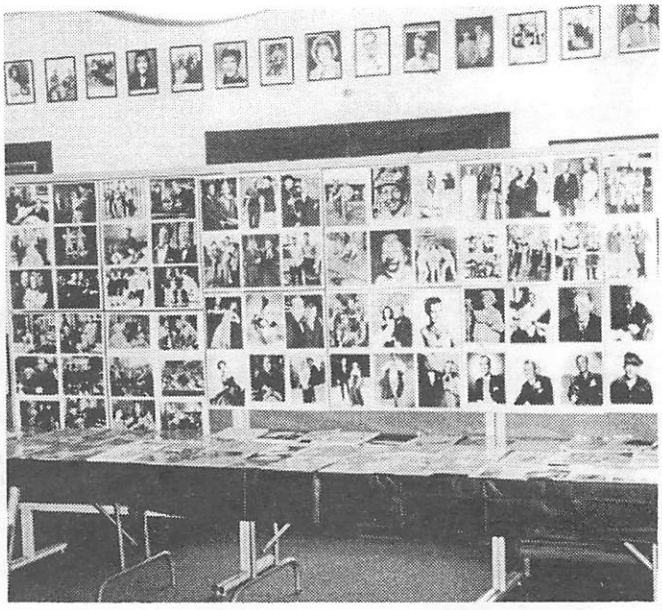
Once dinner was finished, the talk changed to dessert, and Mrs. Crosby mentioned that she "loves anything with meringue on it." Well, lemon meringue pie is my grandfather's favorite, so in addition to the birthday cake which the waitress brought over for him (which prompted another chorus of "Happy Birthday" from the waitresses, our family, and Mrs. Crosby) we all had a taste of a piece of lemon meringue pie. Mrs. Crosby graciously signed a few napkins for the staff, met the chef, and then presented Ervin with "the most personal birthday present I can give you, because it's all about me." It was a copy of her book *My Last Years With Bing,* which she inscribed for him right there at the table.

With that we bid the Linden Inn farewell and traveled back to Milwaukee, after a brief stop at our home to drop off my grandparents, to take Mrs. Crosby back to her hotel. Once again we had a nice chat about a variety of topics. She mentioned that she drives every day and has an SUV. My parents also have an SUV, so they asked her what make it is. "Mercedes," she answered. "I still have the 1975 Mercedes SL that Bing gave me as well."

We talked a bit about her film career. She said she really did those scenes on the high wire in *The Big Circus,* "only the wires were much closer to the ground than they appeared" and that she once turned down a role in an Elvis Presley film because "It just was not right for me." *Anatomy Of A Murder* was her final feature film. She made it while pregnant with Mary Frances.

She is a member of the AMPAS Committee, which

Greg Van Beek, Jane Fitzgerald, and Buddy Bregman at the Irish Fest Music Archives



Display of Bing Crosby 8 x 10 still shots, from Greg Van Beek and Irish Music Archives.

helps choose the best actor, actress and film at the Academy Awards. She is sent tapes of all the new films to review, and most of them she only gives five minutes to view because they are so bad. I told her it was a travesty that Eminem, the controversial rap singer, won an Oscar for song of the year, beating out a great song from *Chicago.*"I didn't vote on that," she said. "Evidently he had all of his friends vote for him".

Then she went on to say, "I haven't attended a concert or seen a movie at the theater in years because they're just too loud. The really overdo the volume levels."

On the way back to the hotel, Mrs. Crosby needed to stop to pick up some medication. The closest store along the route was a Target department store, so that's where we stopped. My parents, Mrs. Crosby, and I all ambled into the store, gathering puzzled looks wherever we went. You could almost read their minds as the people tried to place where they had seen this elegant woman before!

Back on the road, and after a bit of searching, we managed to locate the County Clare, a quaint little bed and breakfast where both Mrs. Crosby and Buddy Bregman were staying. We hugged one another goodnight, and after Mrs. Crosby was safely inside we journeyed back to West Bend to get some rest for the big day.

Saturday, April 12 started out with buying newspapers. Al Dunn, the reporter who covered Mrs. Crosby's visit to my home, worked through the night right up to the deadline to get the article completed and on the front page of the West Bend *Daily News* by 5:00 a.m., having left us a little after 6:00 p.m. Through his hard work and dedication, The Bing Crosby Centennial Celebration received a last-minute "plug," which I'm certain helped bring in more fans to the event.

Upon arriving at the Irish Fest Center, I was overwhelmed at what I saw. It was literally wall-to-wall Bing! Barry had huge blow-up photos of Bing on each side of the stage, a display of Bing's Irish music and film posters, a 78 rpm exhibit, a photo and magazine

More of the Stankowski sheet music display at the Irish Fest Music Archives

exhibit, and a gold record for the *Merry Christmas* album, not to mention the large contributions of the Stankowski-McGuire family. They graciously loaned many rare pieces of Crosby sheet music, which provided an outstanding display of Bing's universal appeal. There were covers from all around the world, including England, Ireland, Australia, Belgium, the Netherlands, and on and on. They are to be congratulated for their hard work in assembling this marvelous display.

I arrived at about 10:45 a.m., so I was able to take a little time to look over all the displays and photograph them. I brought with me about 75 copies of the Club Crosby membership application, which I set out near the entrance. By the end of the event, only one lone copy remained! Soon Barry arrived with Mrs. Crosby and Buddy Bregman, and we had a nice visit, posing for photos and keeping our celebrity guests busy autographing memorabilia.

Mrs. Crosby loved the West Bend *Daily News* article and couldn't get over the fact that we made the front page! I brought along a large 11 x 14 photo of Bing with Buddy taken by Phil Stern, which Buddy had never seen before. He graciously signed it for me, with the provision that I scan it and e-mail it to him, which I was more than happy to do.

Buddy was a friend of Gary Crosby, which is how he came to work with Bing. Privately we discussed Gary and his portrayal of Bing in his book *Going My Own Way,* which Buddy says is "totally false." Barry Stapleton and I talked about whether or not we should deal with this subject during the discussion, but decided it was far too complicated to get into and get back out of quickly.

At 12:00 noon the doors opened and the fans, who each paid $10 to attend, began trickling in. All told, there were at least 175 people in attendance, with close to 200 people in total inside the building, a fantastic turnout! Evidently there are a lot of "closet" Bing Crosby fans in this area! Special mention needs to be made to Jane Fitzgerald, who drove all the way from Cincinnati (a seven-hour trip one way) to get here. She is the definitive die-hard Crosby fan!

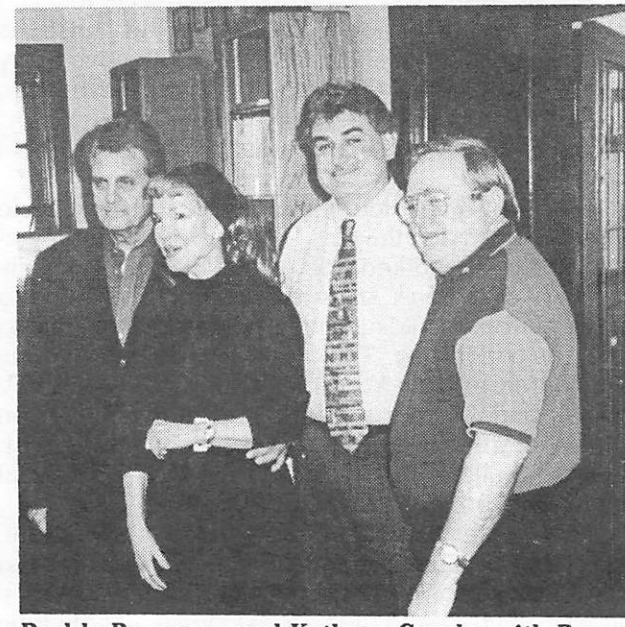
Also member Jon Oye, who designed the cover for this final edition of *Bingang,* drove up from the Chicago area with his wife. It was great seeing so many familiar faces and notables from Wisconsin like Ted Hutton, my friend from WOKY radio in Milwaukee; Skip Mack, who is catalog director for the International Al Jolson Society; and another radio friend, Tom Shanahan from WTKM radio in Hartford, who has been in radio for 60 years. When I introduced him to Mrs. Crosby, he told her that in 1943 Bing's popularity was so great that there were no less than three Bing Crosby programs daily on the station where he worked!

At 1:00 p.m. we took our seats; Barry had special seats reserved in the front row for Mrs. Crosby, Buddy Bregman and myself — side by side. This is the first (and only) time I've ever had a chair reserved with my name on it, and I couldn't resist taking that piece of paper along as a souvenir!

Barry did a very eloquent job of introducing everyone, and then came time to roll the video, which was the only glitch in a flawless event. The first song played fine, but when the second clip came up, we lost the video and were left with only audio. This, of course, made for an awkward situation, but Barry handled it well, simply moving on and saving the film for the second half. I served as combination stagehand and moderator. After moving the dais table onto the stage, Barry turned things over to me, which was a big responsibility, to say the least!

I wanted to keep the panel discussion more informal and intimate in nature, as opposed to the intense academic discussions witnessed at the Hofstra symposium. I had basic, general questions for our guests which I thought would hopefully be of interest to everyone — both dyed-in-the-wool and casual Crosby fans.

Buddy told us about the *Bing Sings Whilst Bregman Swings* album and how it came about as a result of his friendship with Gary. He told how he went on to head



Buddy Bregman and Kathryn Crosby with Barry Stapleton and Ed Ward, Jr. of the Ward Irish Music Archives

Verve Records and how he actually knew Kathryn Crosby before she married Bing. He discussed the *A Little Bit Of Irish* TV special he worked on with Kathryn and Bing in Ireland and how the vats at the Guinness Brewery were polished for the taping, "and they were each about the size of this room!"

He also told us that as a young boy he was in the Decca studios on March 25, 1947 and witnessed the one and only historic recording session pairing Bing with Al Jolson, a session that produced the million-seller "Alexander's Ragtime Band." When I mentioned that on May 29 Bob Hope will also celebrate 100 years, Buddy replied, "Really? That's the same day my daughter was born!" Buddy's daughter Tracey is an actress on the daytime soap *The Young And The Restless. (Editor's note: For you soap opera fans, she plays the role of Lauren Fenmore.)*

Mrs. Crosby, as always, was charming and handled things with ease, reading passages from her book, including the story of Bing "doing the high jump" over some shrubbery and falling short of clearing it. For those of you who have no idea what I'm talking about, you need to buy *My Last Years With Bing!* She also told us that she originally wanted to have the book in hard cover, but that hard cover and b/w photos "would've brought the price up to $100 per book, which is just too much. So we opted for soft cover and color photos." Bing, incidentally, was an avid photographer, and many of his own candid photos of big game are contained in the book.

She brought us up to date on what the Crosbys are doing these days. Nathaniel is married and has four children; Mary Frances is married to an attorney, Mark Brodka, and they have two children, Benjamin, age 3, and 9-month-old Christopher. Harry has no children but is engaged to a doctor who is involved in medical research. He works in Manhattan in investments. As for herself, Mrs. Crosby is in rehearsals for a local San Francisco theater production of the classic musical *Roberta.*

We also discussed the Crosby Christmas in real life, as opposed to the version we all saw on the Christmas specials, and Mrs. Crosby said, "That's when we really had our Christmases — in the summer or fall when the specials were taped. The year we were in Sun Valley, we taped the show in February, as we had to have real snow."

Following a half hour intermission, we once again attempted to screen the film — with a different projector. This time it worked fine. The audience especially loved the Bing/Louis Armstrong pairing of "Now You Has Jazz" from the Edsel show, as well as Bing, Frank, and Dean performing "The Oldest Established Floating Crap Game in New York" from Bing's 1964 CBS-TV special; and, of course, Bing and Kathryn's duet on "Dream" from that show. We closed with "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," which closed the 1967 TV special that Buddy arranged the music for.

After more discussion and a raffle drawing, the panel took questions from the audience. I was amazed at the cross section of people present. There was a rock musician, who looked the part, asking about how Bing warmed up or rehearsed; and a young lady inquiring about where she could find the *White Christmas* soundtrack album. Ted Hutton asked about how Bob and Dolores Hope are doing, with Bob himself just shy of his 100th birthday.

Mrs. Crosby replied, "Bob is upstairs in his room. I haven't seen him in about a year. I'm sure I could if I wanted to, but I don't want to push the issue. Recently Dolores told him something good that happened in the family, and he gripped her hand and said, 'That's great," so he is still with us. Dolores at 94 beat me out of $11 two weeks ago playing gin rummy!"

Whenever someone would ask her a question she couldn't answer, Mrs. Crosby would pat me on the back and say "Ask our expert here," which coming from her was high praise indeed!

There were some fans in the audience who had done their homework, like the gentleman who wanted to know about Bing's relationship with Jascha Heifetz and what songs they had recorded! Well, off the top of my head, I could only think of "Where My Caravan Has Rested," and someone else in the audience blurted out, "The other side is 'Lullaby,' the theme from *Jocelyn.*" I thanked him and said, "I think we have an expert right here in the audience!"

The program ended around 4:30 p.m., after which Mrs. Crosby and Buddy resumed autographing books and records, which they had been doing between noon and 1:00 p.m. and during the intermission. By about 5:30 just about everybody was gone, so my Dad and I bid a fond farewell to Mrs. Crosby, Buddy Bregman, and Barry Stapleton and headed back to West Bend, still smiling from what we had just witnessed.

Incidentally, Mrs. Crosby had 42 copies of her book sent in for the event and was down to the last box when the event ended, which was fantastic! Also, the local NBC-TV affiliate was there covering the event, and all of us appeared on the 10:00 p.m. news that evening.

For those of you who have never been there, if you're ever in the Milwaukee area, you need to make an appointment with Barry to view the Irish Music Archives. I guarantee that if you're a Bing Crosby fan, you won't be disappointed. The Archives are located at 1532 Wauwatosa Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53213. You can phone Barry at 414-476-8999 or e-mail him at: <Barry@irishmusicarchive.com>

* * *

Special thanks need to go to Buddy Bregman, Kathryn Crosby, and, of course, Barry Stapleton, who made this whole adventure possible. Through his tireless work and devotion to promoting Bing, Barry is without a doubt one of the best things that has happened to the world of Crosbyana in a long time.

* * *

In closing, I'd like to offer my own personal thanks to Kathryn Crosby for the many kindnesses she afforded my family and me during her visit to Wisconsin. She endeared herself to all of us with her charm and grace and for retaining the common touch, being completely devoid of any hint of ego. She gave my grandfather the greatest and most memorable birthday in his entire 87 years; and for that, the whole Van Beek clan is eternally grateful. *G.V.B.*

Bing-ing Around Gonzaga U.

By Pete Cakanic

Photos By The Author

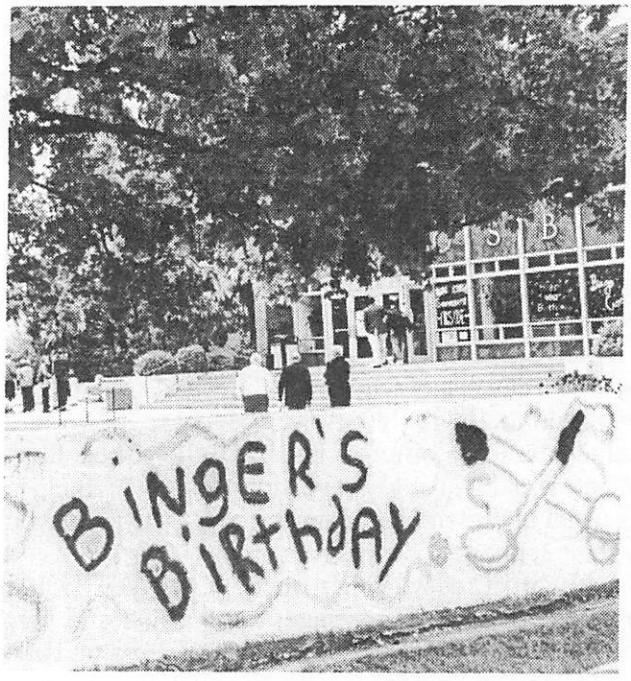
CAN it be the breeze that fills the trees with rare and magic perfume? No, it isn't the breeze, it's BING IN BLOOM.

And so it was, May 16 to 19—sweet Crosbyitis on the campus of Gonzaga University that proclaimed "Bing Crosby, A Celebration Of His Life On The 100th Anniversary Of His Birth."

It began the weekend before, when the *Spokane Review* ran a four-page spread, including a color portrait of Bing and a banner headline, "BING THERE, DONE THAT." The feature highlights Bing's versatile life with plenty of photos and a text that was mostly laudatory.

From the moment one left I-90 and hit Division Street in Spokane there were signs declaring it was Bing time at Gonzaga. Even the venerable AAA travel guide in its portion on Spokane gave a prominent paragraph to the Crosby Museum on the campus.

All over the campus there were signs like "Binger's Birthday," or "Happy Bingsday." And from dusk till dawn there was the great Bing baritone heard throughout the campus. Patti Dey of Staten Island, N.Y. observed, "I noticed most of you guys singing or whistling along with Bing as you walked from session to session." I reminded her of Victor Borge's comment that "Every man would like to sing like Bing. . .if only he could. But, of course, only HE could."



One of the signs on campus.

Patti Dey, Staten Island, N.Y., Helen Coyle, N.Y.C. and Judy Coates, England, are waiting for the unveiling ceremony to begin.

For many of us, it was our first chance to go to college. We stayed in new student quarters—Spartan but comfortable. It was instant friendship when meeting fellow Bingers and resulted in a lot of "college humor."

The Crosby Student Center was open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Bing mementos—T-shirts, book marks, wine glasses with Bing markings, a replica pin of the Bing statue—were on sale at the gift shop—and Kathryn Crosby's and Gary Giddins' books, which were autographed later. Gord Atkinson's CD set "The Crosby Years" also was available and later signed.

(Editor's note: Some of these souvenirs are still available at the gift shop. If you were unable to attend and would like to purchase some of these, check the ad at the end of this article.)

It was unseasonably cold for the first formal session, the unveiling of a new plaque at the base of the Bing statue, on Friday at 6 p.m. Kathryn Crosby was decked out in slacks, boots, coat and scarf to ward off the stiff winds. Rich Little wore a trench coat. Gord Atkinson, a Canadian, apparently didn't need a topcoat.

Participating in the Bing statue rededication and unveiling of the new plaque were Spokane Mayor, John Powers, Spokane University president, Robert Spitzer,

S. J., and Fr. Bernard Couglin.

The plaque, using gold lettering on a black background reads:

THIS STATUE IS REDEDICATED
ON MAY 16, 2003
AS A MEMORIAL TO
HARRY LILLIS "BING" CROSBY,
THE AMERICAN VOICE
OF THE 20TH CENTURY,
ON THE ONE HUNDREDTH
ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH,
MAY 3, 1903.

Each registrant was given a name tag to wear as a pass to all of the sessions and the banquet. Two guides were made available, "100 Years of Bing," a 19-page catalog of the displays throughout the Bing Museum, Foley Library, and conference rooms. It was prepared by Stephanie Edwards Plowman, Bing Crosby Curator at Gonzaga.

A well-thought-out directory, listing events, maps, and biographies of the participants, was also handed out.

Most of us have read about Bing's Spokane days, but it was quite an experience to visit his youthful haunts, the swimming pool often mentioned in biographies, the golf course where he caddied and first learned to play golf, with a bit of history and highlights thrown in. Needless to say, the bus was loaded.

Kathryn smiles as she talks about her new daughter-in-law to Pete Cakanic.

That's Stephanie Edwards Plowman, Bing Crosby Curator, on hand to see that everything goes right. She did a fabulous job!

The host of "Bing-ing Around" did not have a tape recorder and did not cover the events as a reporter, so we will list some highlights from memory.

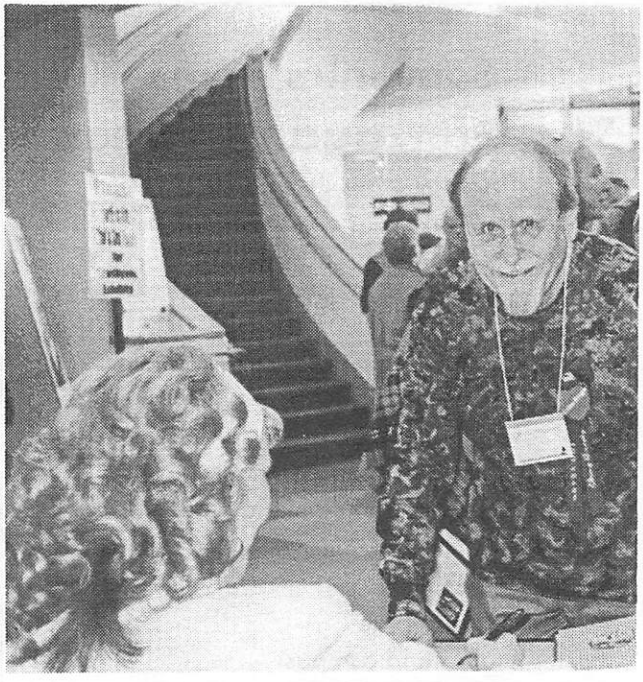
Kathryn Crosby was very affable throughout the event and read from her latest book and sang a few songs accompanied by Buddy Bregman. In a question period she was asked about the "children."

She said that Harry married a Croatian girl on May 10 and was on a honeymoon in Italy. She also said Nathaniel was in Florida and that Mary was "tending to my two grandchildren." Later I approached Kathryn, showed her my name badge and noted that I was Croatian and asked if her daughter-in-law was American-born, as I am. "Oh, she's from Croatia. Her parents still live in Zagreb, Croatia."

Gleaming with pride she said,"Michaela Skoke is an MD who speaks English, Spanish, Italian, and German. She received her medical degree in Germany."

Rich Little was his usual hilarious self. He had put together a film clip of scenes with Bing and spoke of his great admiration for him. When he first met Bing and wanted him to come on his show, he asked Bing, "What would it take to get you on the show?" Bing, in his usual unpretentious manner, said, "Why don't you try the telephone?"

Howard Crosby, Bing's nephew and son of Ted Crosby by a second marriage, was cordial and very active throughout the proceedings. He entertained at a day session and again after the banquet. Backing him was a great seven-piece band from Portland, Oregon.



Dieter Pressler getting his book autographed by Kathryn

When he opened his show he said that when he was sixteen he thought the greatest singer in the world was Roy Orbison. "Then I went into a record store and found a Bing LP put out by Columbia and discovered who the greatest singer really was."

He sang early Bing hits, opening with "Just One More Chance" and including "I'm Through With Love," "Please," and "Pennies From Heaven," then several medleys. He said he chose "early" Bing because that's the period he likes best. I really got a thrill when the bouncy introduction to "It Must Be True" came on. The band did a marvelous job of recreating the Gus Arnheim sound. Hearing it live instead of on a sound system made me realize how great it must have been at Cocoanut Grove.

He did not do an "imitation" of Bing. He sang in his own very good voice using arrangements similar to the early Bing recordings. There were no histrionics, just a hand in his pocket and straight good singing. Thanks, Howard. We enjoyed it.

There were many good panels. Much of the information presented had been covered previously. All of the panelists were gracious and mingled with all of us at the opening "free" cocktail party.

The banquet was a huge success. An official said there were in excess of 650 people there. Rich Little was the featured attraction and did a Bing "Where The Blue Of The Night" (not bad for a non-singer). As we ate the great meal, a huge screen showed Bing in various career highlights.

Frank Sinatra, Jr. made a lot of new friends. He was articulate and suave. He told us "not about Bing and Frank. . . that would be third person." Instead, he related some boyhood memories about Bing and then as a young man. "At age 20, when I opened at the Cocoanut Grove, Bing sent a telegram saying he had good luck there and hoped I would, too." We Bingers gave him a standing ovation.

After Sinatra finished Kathryn got up to tell something not made public before. Noting how Bing hated discussing any medical problem that might happen to him, he was scheduled to do a charity in San Francisco. His kidney stones acted up, and no way would he go public with that, so he called his friend "Ol' Blue Eyes" to fill in. And it was done without public fanfare. She wanted Frank, Jr. to know that.

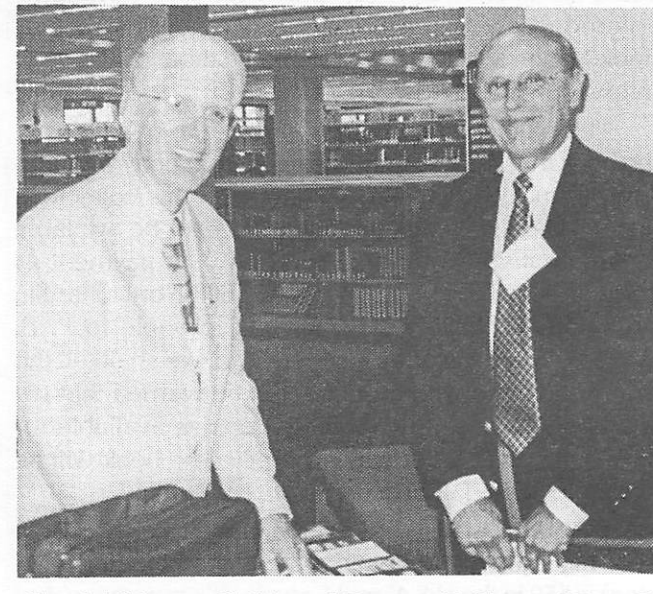
As the banquet was ending we were told we could keep the beautiful wine glasses with dark blue stems and the lettering "Bing Crosby, a Celebration of His Life, Gonzaga University," and a shadow-like duplicate of the Bing statue above the lettering. It was a great gift, since they were $7.99 at the gift shop.

*****

There was one very important subject in the life of Bing that was missing, both at Gonzaga and Hofstra, and that is "Bing the Sportsman." Two current best-sellers mention Bing. *Seabiscuit, An American Legend,* is the story of one of the world's most famous race horses and mentions Bing on 22 pages. Only the Howards, who owned Seabiscuit, are mentioned more often.

The book "Roone", an autobiography of Roone Arledge, the late head of ABC Sports and News, mentions that Bing was a "regular" on African safaris and on *The American Sportsman* show.

In the sports world Bing is probably best known for his golfing activities. Dwayne Netland, former associate editor of *Golf Digest,* wrote an entire book, *The Crosby: Greatest Show In Golf.*



Gord Atkinson (left) and Renato Failace of Brazil. Renato had just purchased "The Crosby Years."

Bing was active in golfing, fishing, horse racing, and hunting, was part owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates, and even owned a piece of a boxer and produced a film about the great John L. Sullivan. Activities in these sports must have had an impact on society because of Bing's great popularity.

I think "Bing the Sportsman" as a separate subject moderated by someone from *Sports Illustrated* or even ABC Sports is a topic that needs to be explored in depth.

*****

This is the final "Bing-ing Around" under the *Bingang* banner. It has been fun bringing you a tidbit or two. If health permits, I hope to contribute to *Bing*. Thank you for reading this far.

Pete Cakanic *(Note new address)*
509 Pershing Dr.
North Augusta, SC 29841-3661
803-278-0645

THE CHRONOLOGICAL BING ON TELEVISION

This new book has been compiled by Lionel Pairpoint, Greg Van Beek, and Malcolm Macfarlane with much help from Martin McQuade. Running to almost 200 pages with about 80 photographs— some of which have never been published before— the book is an in-depth look at Bing's TV career. We think that we have details of every major show in which Bing participated, and full details of songs and other artists are given, together with contemporary press comment where available. The page size is the same as Lionel's radio book and Wig's discography. Paper quality is the same as *Bing* magazine, and there is a laminated colored glossy cover. In short it is a very prestigious book which will be the first publication of the new International Club Crosby.

The club cannot afford to print large quantities of the book in advance, and we are seeking payment up-front from those wishing to purchase this collector's item. It is unlikely that the book will ever be available again, so if you want one, send off your payment as soon as possible to F. B. Wiggins, 5608 North 34th St., Arlington, VA 22207. Make checks payable to F. B. Wiggins. When the orders are received, we shall tell the printer how many to produce, but be warned that we shall only have a few additional copies available for those who don't order very promptly. The book will be available in the fall of 2003.

Because it is a limited edition, and as we want it to be a high quality production, the cost (including shipping) is $50 in the U.S.A. and Canada. It's not cheap, but it's worth every penny!

Souvenirs from The Gonzaga Gift Shop

You may order these online at:
http://guweb2.gonzaga.edu/Bing/

Bookmark, golden metal	$4.00
Bumper sticker	4.00
Christmas ornament (white ball)	18.00
Golf bag, miniature (with 3 balls)	17.00
Golf towel, blue, B.C. logo	25.00
Mug, blue glass with gold image	15.00
Ink pens in shape of smoking pipe	4.00
Pin, "I Love Bing"	4.00
Pin, statue-shaped	8.00
Polo shirt, navy blue	35.00
Poster, statue and campus	3.00
Sweatshirt, white	35.00
T-shirt, white, color image	20.00
Wine glass, as given at banquet	14.00

Shipping costs included in price.

For more information, call
Brenda Warrington, 509-323-3828

A STAR FOR BING?

Is anyone interested in leading a campaign/fund-raising fund drive to help Bing get a star on the Palm Springs, CA Walk of Stars?

It really would be a worthwhile tribute to Bing. to have his star placed next to Al Jolson's star. It is an honor Bing would have appreciated.

My friend Skip Mack, who is cataloging director for the International Al Jolson Society, phoned me to tell me that the same people who gave Al Jolson a star on the Palm Springs, CA Walk of Stars want to give Bing a star right next to his.

The Palm Springs Walk of Stars is right in front of the Plaza Theater, a theater that Jolson performed in and where Bing must have performed, too, during his vaudeville days.

The star isn't free. Skip thought that Jolson's star cost between $1500 and $2500. So what is needed is someone with the time and talent to help make this happen for Bing — someone who can coordinate a fund-raising campaign, solicit sponsors, etc.

If anyone would like to get involved, please give David Miller a call in Palm Springs at 760-360-0874. He's involved with the Walk of Stars and can give you all the details of what needs to be done.

— Greg Van Beek

Crosby collector meets crooner's wife

West Bend fan, family share Friday night fish fry tradition

By AL DUNN
Daily News Staff

Greg Van Beek is a collector with clout.

Not only does the West Bend resident have one of the most formidable collections of this entertainer's memorabilia on the planet, he has been at it for over two-thirds of the 30 years he has been a resident of said orb earth.

That's right, since he was 10 years old.

Some kids collect baseball cards, others collect butterfly wings.

Greg Van Beek collects Bing Crosby.

And he is such an authority on the late crooner — who would have been 100 years old on May 3 — that he has developed a friendship with Kathryn Grant Crosby, the singer's widow.

Grant Crosby was in West Bend Friday to promote her new book, "My Last Years with Bing," as well as to attend a Bing Crosby Centennial Conference at the Irish Fest Center, 1532 Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, which is being held today. She will hold a book signing at the center while she is there. That event starts at 12:30 p.m.

But, that aside, Grant Crosby also wanted to visit her good friend, Greg Van Beek, whom she has known for a number of years.

After this interview, the Van Beek family treated Grant Crosby to a good, old-fashioned Wisconsin fish fry at a local restaurant.

The paramount question, however, (no pun intended, even though Bing and his pal, Bob Hope, made many pictures for Paramount) is: How did a 10-year-old kid become such a fanatic over an old Hollywood crooner?

It was a sequence of events, he said, starting with his grandfather's antique radio. His grandfather is Erv Van Beek, the former owner of Van Beek's Harley-Davidson in West Bend.

"I was fascinated with it and I thought it was the best thing," he said. "It was a natural progression to start collecting old radio programs, like Jack Benny, The Shadow and others.

"And then I found one of the Bing Crosby Shows. I always liked music, but just the way he sang was so unique, like it was the easiest thing in the world to do.

"And I was hooked."

Indeed, to the point of not only an extensive collection of the crooner's albums — even one made with, of all people, David Bowie — he also has decanters, posters, games, advertisements (one of them showing Crosby puffing on a Chesterfield cigarette), dolls, a line of clothing under Crosby's name, even a hat that Crosby himself wore.

One of his most prized possessions is an original TV script written for Crosby in his last appearance on the old Bob Hope Show, he said.

A special closet in Van Beek's bedroom is basically a Crosby shrine, filled with exotic Crosby items. Van Beek is also a contributing editor of the official Crosby fan club magazine, "Bingang."

But he also has numerous articles and magazine covers — including one on the cover of the old "Look" magazine — of beautiful Grant Crosby.

She was enthralled with the entire collection.

"Oh, here's one when Bing took me to the Academy Awards," she said, holding a movie magazine cover of her dancing with Crosby.

The petite and still lovely Mrs. Crosby talked about her life with the singer — who is regarded as the one who revolutionized the pop singer genre — with humor, fondness and nostalgia.

She was married to the singer in 1957 until his death 20 years later in October 1977 in Madrid, Spain, after playing a round of his beloved golf.

"It was just living with your basic, everyday, run-of-the mill superstar," she said with a laugh.

"But he was very easy to live with and I always felt comfortable with him," she said.

Crosby is perhaps best known for his rendition of the Irving Berlin classic, "White Christmas," and Grant Crosby said that time of the season was indeed particularly joyful for the Crosby clan, when they all appeared on Christmas TV specials.

"These Christmas specials were truly our Christmas celebrations," she said.

Grant Crosby divides her time between homes near Lake Tahoe, Nev. and in San Francisco.

She is currently in rehearsal for the play "Roberta," which will be performed in San Francisco, she said.

And while her home areas are spectacular, she enjoyed what she saw in Wisconsin.

"It's just beautiful, and the people are very nice. And the weather is just perfect."

Editor's Note: This article appeared in the *West Bend Daily News* on April 12th, 2003.

Next page: Pictures that appeared in the newspapers in connection with the centenary.

Greg Van Beek and his special guest, Kathryn Grant Crosby, look at some of the memorabilia Van Beek has collected on her late husband, legend Bing Crosby. Grant Crosby was in West Bend to promote a book as well as attend a Bing Crosby celebration in Wauwatosa today.

Sam Castro/Daily News Staff

Greg Van Beek and Kathryn Grant Crosby, wife of the deceased crooner Bing, look over a script for one of Bing's films that was never made at Van Beek's home Friday.
Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel

The Birthday Celebration At Gonzaga

By Bob Pasch

Bob Pasch, Kathryn Crosby, and Steve Gold (Bob's pianist) taken following Bob's Tribute to Bing Crosby Show held at Gonzaga University on May 18, 2003.

MY wife, Lenora, and I arrived in Spokane, Washington, on Saturday, May 10, a week prior to the scheduled birthday celebration for Bing. This international event was hosted by Gonzaga University, Bing's alma mater and the home of his archives.

The university had made arrangements for me to perform my "Tribute To Bing Crosby Show" at three locations in the Spokane area prior to Bing's weekend birthday celebration.

On Mother's Day the local veterans hospital hosted our show. We entertained on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at retirement communities in Spokane. The remainder of the week was spent working with the staff at Gonzaga in preparation for my scheduled shows for the weekend birthday celebration.

I consider it a real privilege to have had the opportunity of performing my tribute to Bing at the 100th Birthday Celebration. My tribute shows were held on Saturday, May 17, and Sunday, May 18, in the Russell Theater on campus.

The staff at Gonzaga was wonderful to work with. Through their efforts we were able to add our slide presentation and a film clip of Bing at Pebble Beach. The footage for the film clip was from the private collection of Priscilla Koernig, Past President of Club Crosby. Steve Gold, my musical director and pianist, helped us edit and produce the film and added the background music.

The film was followed by a short Tribute to Bob Hope to honor his life-long friendship with Bing and his 100th birthday on May 29, 2003. We ended our presentation with an original poem, reprinted below, that I wrote for the occasion and with Bing's version of "When I Leave The World Behind."

* * * *

Poem for Bing's Birthday

A hundred years have come to pass.
And we miss your big blue eyes, your pipe, your hat.
We know you're in heaven looking down on us now,
And we must carry on, someway, somehow.

You left us with thousands of songs that
touched our heart,
So that each one of us can still play our part.
Let us be grateful for the ways you cared,
And just say thanks, Bing, for the Blessing you shared.

* * * *

We were privileged to have Kathryn Crosby and her brother, Del Grandstaff, and his wife, Marie, come to the presentation on Sunday. This was the first time that Kathryn had an opportunity to see my presentation, and she said it was respectfully done and very professional. She also said that she especially liked the way I captured the low tones.

During the weekend, I had an opportunity to meet with several Bing fans and club members. I also talked at length with Malcolm Macfarlane and Michael Crampton about the merger of Club Crosby and the International Crosby Circle. They are looking forward to welcoming our Club members into the new organization.

I indicated to both of them that it is my sincere hope that we can move forward in harmony. I also sincerely hope that current Club Crosby members will *remember that the new organization is about Bing* and that everyone will be receptive and will continue to participate as members in the new organization.

I would also like to personally thank Mark Scrimger and Wayne Martin for the wonderful contributions they have made to the Club. Their efforts are appreciated by myself, as I am sure they are by all the other Club Crosby members.

I also want to make club members aware of my new web site. Please check it out at <tributetobing.com>.We have a news page as part of the web site and would welcome your comments by e-mail, <llpasch@cox.net>. The major goal of the tribute show is to promote Bing's memory and to keep his wonderful music alive. We are always trying to find new locations to perform and would welcome your input on this as well.

As a closing note, on November 23, 2003, we are scheduled to perform at Sun City Grand in Surprise, AZ. Kathryn Crosby will be contributing some songs and a reading on the program. She will follow her performance with a book signing of her latest book, *My Last Years With Bing*.

Great Grandfather Bing

By Crissi Newton

I think a little introduction for those of you who do not know me would be appropriate. My name is Crissi Newton, and I have been a fan of Bing Crosby since watching *White Christmas* at the age of 16. That was nine years ago, and with the help of a lot of nice people, I have been collecting ever since. I am also the webmaster of a small website devoted to Bing and, of course, the Secretary of Club Crosby.

Since you are now reading the last issue ever of *Bingang*, I thought I would take the opportunity to tell my story of Crosby exploration that took an unexpected turn, more or less straight into my family tree.

It was a day not unlike any other on the dark, dank second floor of the town courthouse. I stood at the window of the law library, staring down at the heat rising off the asphalt below. It was the middle of the summer of 1998 in Louisiana, and I was serving, quite proudly I might add, as assistant to the law clerk. This job consisted mainly of taking notes in court (I had never heard the phrase "house of ill-repute" used so frequently before that summer) and making out the law clerk's personal bills.

Since there was no court this particular day, and all of the checks were in the mail, I decided to take a trip downstairs to the Clerk of Courts' office. As I descended the stairs, I could feel the cool air wafting up from the lower offices. The Clerk of Courts' office was a stark contrast to the law library, supremely air-conditioned and brilliantly lit. The Clerk handed me a large, slightly-faded book. She had found the name that I had asked her to locate several days ago. My eyes followed her finger down the side of the page. There about midway down was the name of a man, the owner of a small piece of land for which he had to pay taxes that were recorded in that particular book. It was Bing Newton.

The father of my grandfather went by the name of my most favorite entertainer. Oddly enough, it took my family two or three years to inform me of this little tidbit. It seems that "Bing" was an interesting fellow who was born several years before Mr. Crosby. I have heard stories of how he enjoyed jumping into box cars and riding the rails, leaving his family to wonder when or if he was coming back. There is also a famous story of how he went out for a loaf of bread (or for snuff, depending on who is telling the story) and did not return for several months. Obviously a patient person bordering on sainthood, his wife would always allow him back in the house.

I saw the name once more in my grandfather's obituary in August of 2002. I truly miss the stories he would tell about growing up and about the man named Bing, who died long before I was born. No one really knows the origin of the name. One theory is that Bing's wife could not properly pronounce the name Ben. Regardless of how my great grandfather came to be known as Bing, there will always be room for the two of them. One Bing was a magnificent singer and entertainer and the other a 20th century vagabond.

CLUB CROSBY

UNITED IN APPRECIATION OF BING CROSBY, AMERICAN ENTERTAINER

Kathryn Crosby
Honorary President

Mark Scrimger
President

Wayne Martin
Vice President
Editor *BINGANG*

Charles Baillie
Peter Cakanic
David Lobosco
Dieter Pressler
Greg Van Beek
Contributors

Dear Friends,

It seems like there are so many things that should be said on such an important occasion as this. In my case, the first would be to say that I wish I could be there with all of you. Though this just wasn't possible, I know that Club Crosby will be well represented by the many members able to journey to Spokane for Bing's Centennial Celebration.

I suppose you could say that the membership of the first Bing Crosby fan club would have been made up of Bing's parents and siblings, friends and Gonzaga classmates, and well-wishers from right here in Spokane. They encouraged his first tentative steps towards a show business career and eventually wound up sharing him and his unique talent with the entire world. For this we will always be grateful.

As many of you know, Club Crosby has been in continuous existence since 1936 – an amazing sixty-seven years and still going strong. Of course, the nature of our organization has changed over the past seven decades. From its beginnings as a stereotypical fan club it has gradually evolved into an appreciation society bent on keeping Bing's name alive by celebrating his life and career in the pages of our club journal, Bingang. Because of the wide dispersion of our members across the United States and overseas, our journal has also served as a forum for our membership to share information and as a marketplace to buy/sell/trade in order to add valuable recordings and memorabilia to their cherished Crosby collections. Many lifelong friendships have been forged between members who met in our pages but have not or may never meet face-to-face.

There have been many club officers and members over the years who lived and breathed Crosby and gave tirelessly of their time and talent, without thought of remuneration, to keep Club Crosby a viable entity. Sadly, many of them, like Bing himself, didn't live long enough to see or participate in this glorious 100th Birthday Celebration. I hope you'll take a moment out during the festivities to remember the fellow collectors no longer with us who lent a helping hand along the way. Like Bing, they are sorely missed more than they could ever have imagined.

Luckily, Bing left us a rich legacy of music and film which will never die and again, as they did in the beginning, Spokane is sharing her favorite son with the entire world. Bing's friends and admirers have come through in grand fashion in putting this event together.

Best wishes to all.

Mark Scrimger
Club Crosby President
1987-2003

435 South Holmes Avenue • Kirkwood, MO 63122 • USA • ClubCrosby@aol.com

Kathryn Crosby Appears On The Today Show

By Martin McQuade

Photos By The Author

"June comes around every year . . . June comes around every Springtime"*

THE arrival of this most vernal month in New York City was particularly auspicious this year, since it heralded a visit by Kathryn Crosby to celebrate the Bing Crosby Centennial and to promote her latest book, *My Last Years With Bing*.

The most prominent item on her calendar this first week in June was an interview with Katie Couric on the *Today* Show. I initiated and organized this appearance, and it was scheduled for Monday, June 2, at the beginning of the nine o'clock hour

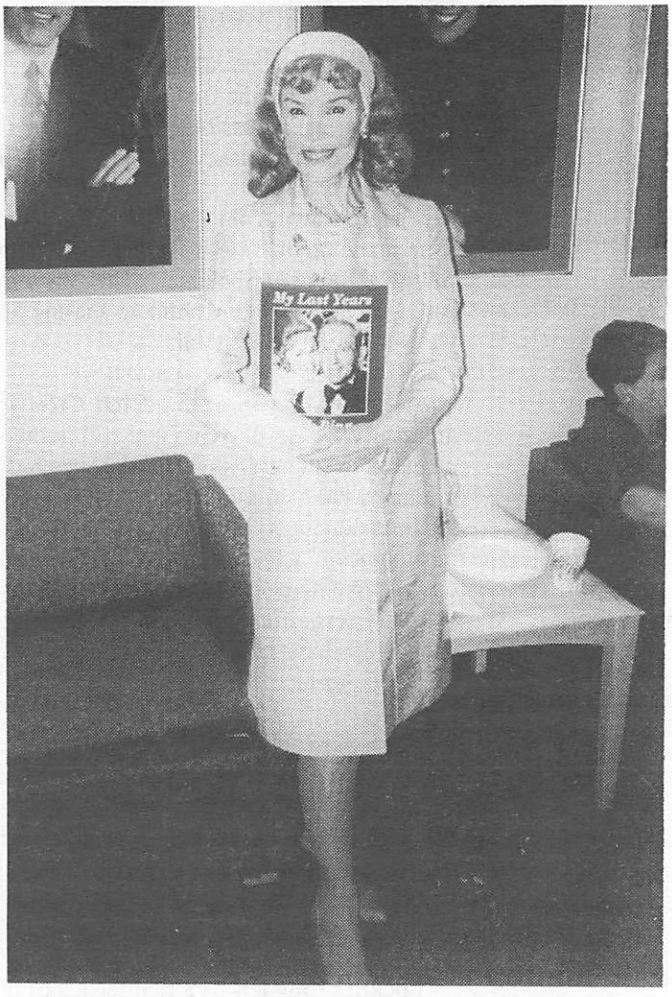
Everything was in place for a memorable morning. I joined an extremely relaxed Mrs. Crosby in the green room, located on the second floor of 30 Rockefeller Plaza at eight o'clock. Never one to ***"fall for last year's style,"**** Mrs. Crosby was resplendently chic, clad in a newly-created Oleg Cassini ensemble that the couturier had just designed for his Spring 2004 collection.

The interview, which thus far has been the only network television tribute honoring the centennial, was preceded by a concise and tasteful montage of Crosby movie highlights, narrated by Couric. The narration was generally reverential, but it was marred when Couric referred to Bing's "volatility," a totally outlandish term when applied to him. It proved to be a portent of more rumor-mongering to come. This voice-over was redeemed by a fitting peroration, "Bing Crosby. . .forever remains an American icon."

The film clips dissolved into the image of a radiant and confident Kathryn, who was immediately asked about her final decade with Bing. She replied, "It was a marriage that was solid. . .He had some health issues that he always hid from everyone, including me. I would think 'Oh, what have I done this time? What have I done that is wrong?' Well, a kidney stone had moved. That's what was wrong. But he never complained, and that was quite heroic."

This touching and witty answer was followed by yet another allusion to Bing's "volatile temper." Mrs. Crosby tried to put this nonsense to rest with the retort, "He was never volatile with me, and I never knew anyone who said it." Couric would not let the matter rest, dredging Gary Crosby's unfortunate tome, *Going My Own Way*, the most salacious passages of which would later be recanted.

"Gary didn't remember a lot of those years, and that was his problem, not Bing's," she casually remarked, maintaining her composure and aplomb. The colloquy assumed a very friendly and intimate air from that moment on.



Kathryn Crosby poses with her book in the* Today *show green room immediately after her interview.

Mrs. Crosby was asked if she was intimidated by the fact that Bing's boys were approximately her age when she married. Her response was both swift and candid: "Such a relief! I didn't have to be a stepmother. We were grown people."

"You were like a step-little-sister, almost?"

Mrs. Crosby with Amonda Marshall, **Today** ***show staffer, in the green room before interview.***

"No, I wasn't a step-anything. I was just Bing's wife. We really had the longest courtship in history. I thought, 'Well, it's just not going to work' because there were so many people who thought I was too young. And then he decided he really didn't want to live without me. By that time I had found I could live without him. I wouldn't be as happy, but I could live without him. And I think both of those lessons were important, so that when we were married, it was just Bing and Kathryn."

This heartfelt and articulate commentary was followed by remembrances of their children growing up, fabulous trips, and glamorous friends and neighbors; Kathryn's nursing and teaching credentials were mentioned. Mrs. Crosby cited Bing's affinity with writing and speculated that he would be pleased that she finished her volume.

Toward the end of the interview Couric, referring to the book, remarked that in the last few years of his life, Bing found what love is. "Did your relationship grow deeper as he grow older?"

"Yes."

The interview concluded with Kathryn speaking of the many Crosby fans whom she has met during the past year. I count myself among this coterie, having just met this marvelous lady when she attended the exhibition I curated for Hofstra University's Crosby conference. I was so delighted when Mrs. Crosby singled me out. "The man who brought me here today said, 'My life is devoted to Bing Crosby.' That's pretty daunting because they really feel he was a very special man."

I trust that I speak for all who have made her acquaintance when I state that Mrs. Crosby is a very special woman—an extraordinary woman who profoundly uplifts all whom she meets.

After the *Today* Show I had the honor of spending more time with her. I set up an interview for her on Joe Franklin's radio show. I prepared a tour of South Brooklyn that took Mrs. Crosby to a nursing facility. Her effect on the convalescents there was positively spiritual. I also had the pleasure of attending the Crosby testimonial held at the august Players' Club in Manhattan, where both Kathryn and her son Harry confessed how very much they miss the great man who died so long ago.

Never worry, ***"Just when your poor old heart can't go on, it seems June brings a basketful of dreams,"****
June, Bing, and Kathryn.

*Quotes from "June Comes Around Every Year," by Harold Arlen and Johnny Mercer, copyright 1944, introduced by Bing Crosby in *Here Come The Waves.*

Ogilvy & Mather/Chicago displaying employees' art

Call it Ogilvy & Mather/Chicago—The Gallery.

It's a new image for the local ad shop, which is now functioning as an art gallery on the side. The public spaces at O&M are currently filled with an exhibition of work from some 25 staffers who moonlight as artists.

The work on view ranges from paintings and drawings to photography and children's books. Handmade leather goods from O&M graphic production artist Rich Romero are even part of the mix. Pieces include a detailed line drawing of famed singer Bing Crosby by O&M art director Jon Oye and a comic illustration by Gabe Usadel.

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES • THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2003

BOB HOPE AND BING CROSBY IN *ROAD TO UTOPIA* (1946)

BOB HOPE 1903-2003

JUST as we were getting the final pages together for this issue, I turned on the computer one Monday morning, and the first thing that appeared on the internet was a picture of Bob Hope, It took a few seconds for the computer to put together AOL's "home page," but I knew instantly what had happened. Bob Hope was dead. I sat there in silence as the text came on the screen and saw the sad news being confirmed. "What a terrible loss," I said to myself, but my next thought was "How lucky we were to have him around for so many years."

Bob was one of our last living links to Bing, as far as the most productive years of Bing's career are concerned. The films they made together are still popular and served as models for many films that came long after the "Road" series. Bob will be sorely missed, and our sincere condolences go to his family.

The media around the world immediately responded with many features and tributes to Bob Hope. Hundreds of these tributes could be traced on the internet. As our own tribute to Bob, we are reprinting a few comments from these on this page. — W.M.

He had a million of 'em, Bob Hope did, written down on the cards and napkins and script sheets, filed by subject and year at his home in California, filed in case he needed them again. Golf jokes *("If you watch a game it's fun. If you play a game it's recreation. If you work at it, it's golf")* and political jokes *("I bumped into President Ford the other day and said 'Pardon me.' He said, "I don't do that any more.' ")* and age jokes *("You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake").* He rattled them off, one-liners, by the thousands for most of the 20th century. *("Middle age is when your age starts to show around your middle.")* He rattled them off from vaudeville to cyberspace. *("A bank is a place where they lend you money if you can prove you don't need it.")* He paid hundreds of writers for them *("I'm so old, they canceled my blood type.")* and made them his own. Born in England *("I left when I found out I couldn't be king"),* he became one of America's best known citizens, ambassador to the troops *("If I have to lay an egg for my country, I'll do it"),* slipping effortlessly from radio to movies to television. NBC even coined a word to promote his appearances: a Bob Hope "Special." And so he was. Bob Hope died *("headed for that big divot")* on Sunday [July 26]of pneumonia at age 100, having long ago made peace with his maker *("I do benefits for all religions. I'd hate to blow the hereafter on a technicality")* and leaving behind his epitaph. "I have seen what a laugh can do. It can transform almost unbearable tears into something bearable, even hopeful."

— St. Louis Post-Dispatch

He was born the year the Wright brothers took flight, and during a century of wars, Hope helped hundreds of thousands of soldiers fly over their front-line fears by winging them one gag after another. His humor touched four generations of fans, although his type of soft-elbowing ridicule barely survived the rise of bitter, razor-like comedians after the '60s — many of whom owe him thanks for inventing the monologue that taps current topics.

— Christian Science Monitor

There was nothing Bob Hope loved more than an audience, and audiences responded in kind, particularly soldiers facing combat who desperately needed a laugh. Some years ago, he chartered a yacht for a cruise in Canadian waters. It was one of the few formal vacations the comedian ever took, and he found he could not stand the serenity. He cut the cruise short and returned to Hollywood with the comment, *"Fish don't applaud."*

— New York Times

"Dad had an amazing send-off. I think all the good vibes he put out during his lifetime came back to take him up. . . He left us with a smile on his face, and no really last words," his daughter said. "He gave us each a kiss and that was it. "

— The Canberra Times

Hope springs eternal, or pretty darned close. For a century, Bob Hope moved through life with the breezy grace and buoyancy of a casual champion, much like Daniel approaching the lion's den, confident of the outcome. That cocky stride as he went for the open mike was quite a sight. It was brash ambition in motion, and it got him everywhere.

— MSNBC.COM

Most people don't realize how close Hope came to being killed on those USO tours. In Viet Nam, Hope and company were held up while the crew loaded the cue cards off a plane. He missed the explosion that completely destroyed the hotel he was booked into by five minutes.

San Francisco Examiner

Veteran Canadian comic Dave Broadfoot recalls working with Hope, who was one of his idols. He remembers Hope telling him he resembled Red Skelton when he first met him in the 1950s. Broadfoot said that when Hope was staying at Calgary's Palliser Hotel, the grain trains would roar past at regular intervals around the clock. "So when he called the desk the morning after he checked in, he asked the clerk, 'What time does this hotel get into Vancouver?'"

— The Calgary Sun

Club Crosby — "On The Air"

By Gord Atkinson

MY friendship with Bing began in the summer of 1945 when as an 18-year-old Canadian soldier I met him on the Paramount lot in Hollywood. By happenstance it was August 14, the day World War II ended. Upon my return to my home in Toronto and civilian life, I received a commemorative photo of us standing outside his dressing room. Of all the photographs taken with him over the years that one is my most cherished possession. It was a short time after that I discovered the Club Crosby and formed the "Canadian Branch" of the Club.

In 1947 as an apprentice broadcaster I approached a local radio station with a proposal to host a weekly 30-minute program featuring Crosby records and commentary. With written permission from both Bing and his manager-brother, Everett, we went "on the air" in September of that year.

Bing was very supportive and sent me recorded greetings and his latest releases. We would on occasion do telephone interviews. Before long it was decided that the ratings were so good that we would expand the format once a month to include a studio audience. We also broadcast on location at theatres where new Crosby movies had their Canadian premieres.

The show remained on the air for seven years, broadcast from both Toronto and Ottawa. During that time it was heard on three different stations but always on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. It was during that period that I believe my friend, Priscilla Koernig of California was the President of Club Crosby

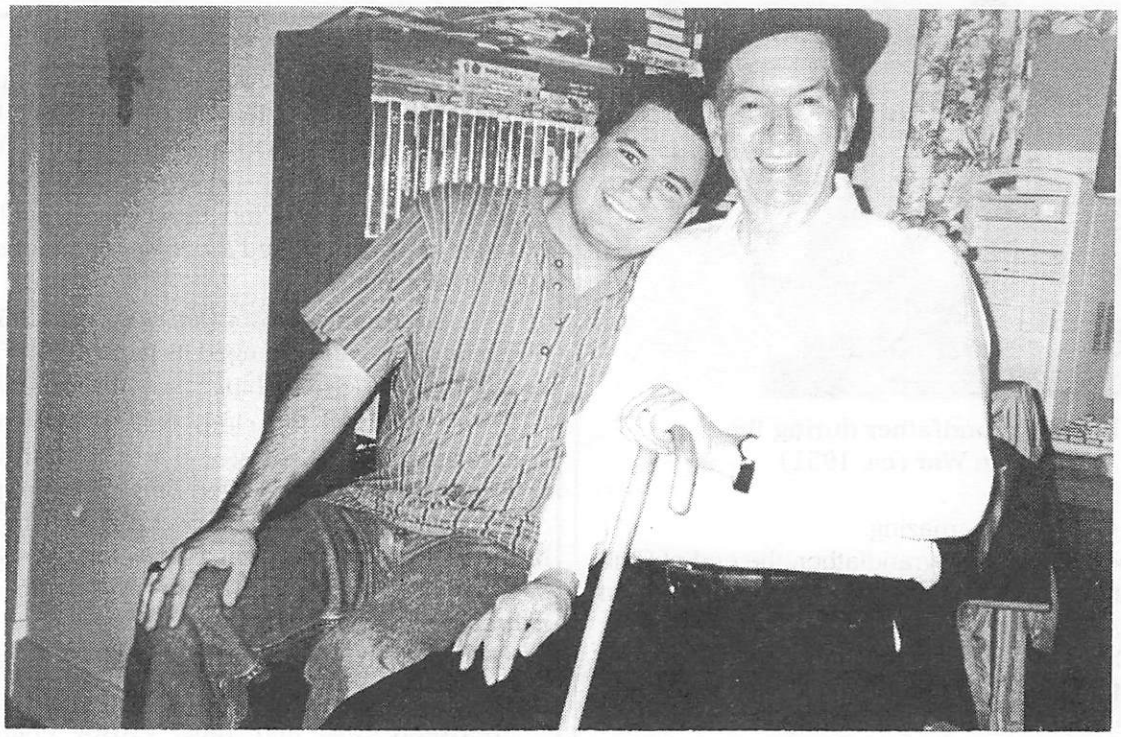
With the final edition of *Bingang* there is a wave of nostalgia crossing the continent that is conjuring up wonderful, warm memories and a deep sense of comradery that we all share.

Congratulations to Wayne and Mark for their years of dedication to Club Crosby and their always fascinating and informative issues of *Bingang*. With the merger of Club Crosby and the ICC Bing will live on in the years to come.

"Club Crosby" radio broadcast, September 1950. Radio Station CHUM, Toronto. Program host and president of the Canadian Branch of Club Crosby, Gord Atkinson, is at the microphone, saluting the release of the Bing Crosby film *Mr. Music*.

Remembering Club Crosby

By David Lobosco



David Lobosco and his grandfather (May 2001)

I have put off writing this final article for *Bingang* longer than I have put off anything in my life. I knew that sooner or later I would have to write an end to one of the happiest associations of my life. *Bingang* and Club Crosby have been like best friends, and I was a member of the club through the most formative years of my life, from the age of 17 to 29.

I guess I should begin at the start. My late grandfather introduced me to Bing Crosby and all of his associates at a young age. We would go to flea markets searching for great deals on records. My first Bing Crosby record was a 45 rpm disc of "Galway Bay" / "My Girl's An Irish Girl." I was six when I bought it for 25 cents, and I still have it. My record collection swelled, especially when I became a working man at the age of 16 in 1990.

It was also in 1990 that I discovered Club Crosby. I went to a flea market with my grandparents and bought Bing's 1977 *Seasons* album. On the back was an old address for the club. Luckily my address got forwarded to Wayne Martin, and—as they say—the rest is history. I started writing articles for the club in 1992, and that facet has brought me great joy.

Like Bing Crosby's music, Club Crosby has also been there for me in the good and bad times. My estranged father died in 1991, and even though I wasn't close to him, Bing Crosby's "When I Lost You" helped me ease the pain. I remember my grandfather playing me Bing's "School Days" when I graduated from high school in 1992 and later college in 1998. In 1999 an ex-girl friend, for whatever reason, reported me dead to the Bing Crosby Internet Museum, and all of Club Crosby stood by me for support.

Nothing would test my strength like the sudden death of my grandfather on July 6, 2002. He had just celebrated his 54th wedding anniversary with my grandmother days earlier. They were leaving dinner when my grandfather simply pulled the car over and passed away. I thought my world was going to crumble around me, but I listened to Bing singing "What'll I Do," "When I Leave The World Behind," and "Once In A While," and I felt better. Again, the support I received

David's grandfather during the Korean War (ca. 1951)

from Club Crosby was amazing.

Like the passing of my grandfather, the end of Club Crosby is another rite of passage in a way. I am a grown man now, who is engaged to a wonderful woman, Sharon Sebek, whom I am going to marry on September 4, 2004. In a way Sharon has picked up where my grandfather and Club Crosby have ended. She is there for the good times as well as the bad times.

Time may fade some memories, but it will never fade the wonderful memories I have of Club Crosby. It was more than just an organization honoring a famous person. It was a family of friends whose love of great music brought them together. I will always remember Club Crosby and *Bingang* with fondness, happiness, and maybe an occasional tear.

Clubs' Merger Receives Coverage in *Goldmine*

PETE Cakanic sent us this clipping from the *Goldmine* issue of May 16, 2003. Pete had written to the editor of that publication, Greg Loescher, and provided him with the information. We appreciate Greg's cooperation in printing the article.

Listed in *Guinness 2000* as the "oldest fan club," Club Crosby, for fans of the late crooner **Bing Crosby,** will merge with the International Crosby Circle this summer.

Formed in 1936, Club Crosby had published a biannual magazine called *Bingang* continuously since the club's inception.

The International Crosby Circle began in 1950 as the British Bing Club and changed its name in 1966, due to its worldwide membership.

The combined fan clubs will be known as the International Club Crosby and will publish a three-times-a-year magazine called *Bing*. The merger coincides with what would have been Crosby's 100th birthday on May 3. Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington — Crosby's alma mater — will be holding a three-day birthday celebration May 16-18.

There is also the Bing Crosby Museum online at <www.kcmetro.cc.mo.us/~crosby/>.

Between 1926 and 1962, Crosby charted 368 records under his own name and 28 more with different bands for a total of 396 chartings — more than any other artist. In addition, Crosby also had 38 No. 1 hits, more than anyone. Crosby's "White Christmas" remains the best-selling record of all time.

— Greg Loescher

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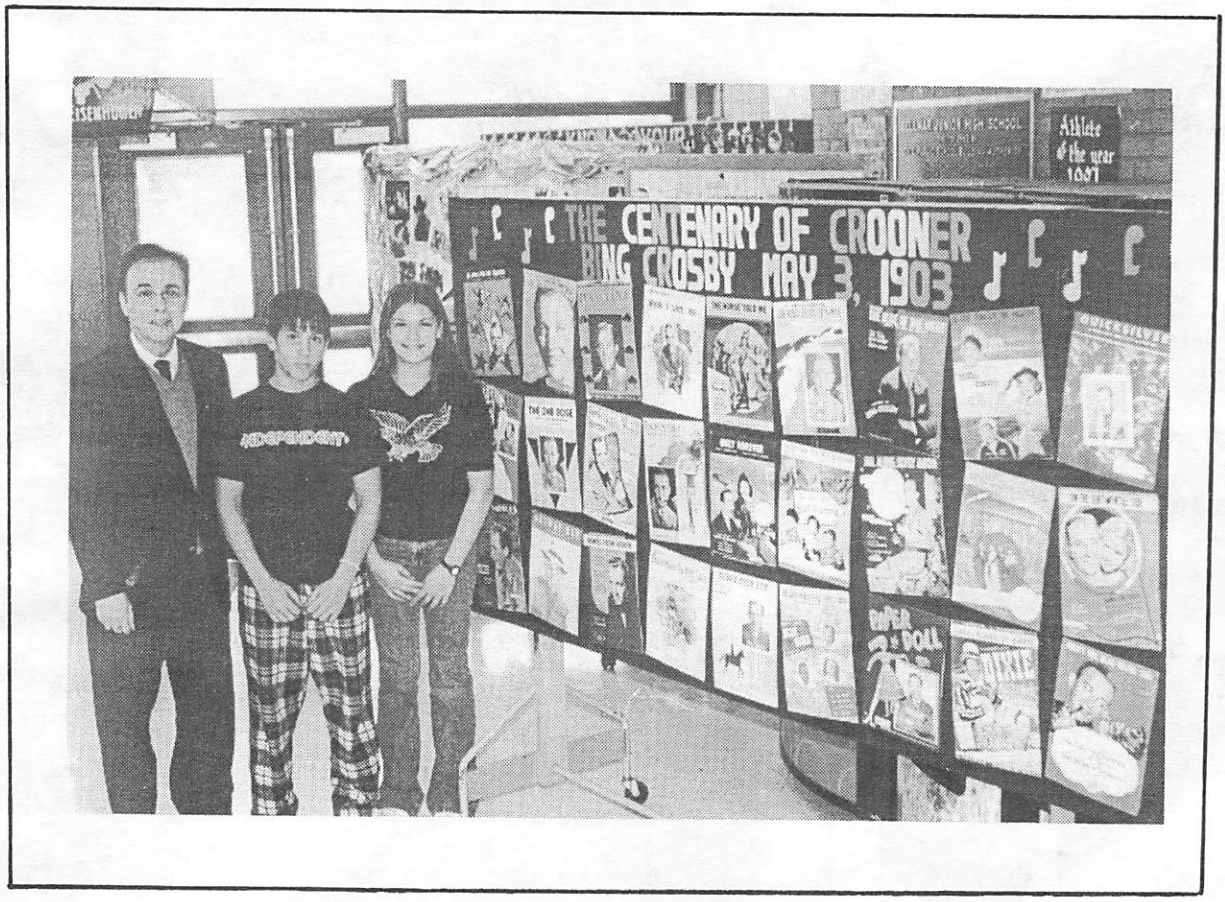
BELLMAR MIDDLE SCHOOL

500 Perry Avenue
BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA 15012
STEVEN V. RUSSELL, Principal

TO: Whom It May Concern
FROM: Mr. Russell
RE: Bellmar Bing Crosby Centennial
DATE: 2003

Bellmar Middle School prepares for the upcoming commemoration of the 100th birthday of legendary entertainer Bing Crosby. The students will celebrate the life of Bing Crosby throughout the month of May, with his many signature songs played during the morning exercises. This large exhibit of Bing Crosby sheet music will be on display throughout the remainder of the school year.



Students Justin Tatsch and Emily Scapes join Mr. Russell with the Bing Crosby display.

Editor's Note: Here's a Crosby Centennial Celebration you hadn't heard about! Our congratulations go to Mr. Russell and his students for this great display, also our thanks for making this information available to us.

The Westwood Marching and Chowder Club

LEFT: Johnny Mercer, Unidentified, Dixie Crosby, Herb Polesie, Dave Butler, Bessie Burke, 1938.

BELOW: Dave Butler and John Scott Trotter, 1938.

IN the years immediately preceding World War II, the usually private and reclusive Bing opened his home for a once-a-year gathering jokingly dubbed "The Westwood Marching and Chowder Club." The evening's entertainment always featured a vaudeville-like program where Bing's friends and co-workers were literally expected to sing (or exhibit some other talent) for their supper.

M.S.

FACING PAGE: Johnny Burke, Perry Botkin, Bing, Jimmy Monaco (at piano), and Victor Young (side of picture), 1939.

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MR AND MRS HERB POLESIE=

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THE WESTWOOD HILLS MARCHING AND CHOWDER CLUB NORTHHOLLYWOOD BRANCH ASKS YOU TO ITS 2ND BREAKAWAY MINSTREL SHOW TO BE PERPETRATED AT 10500 CAMARILLO NORTHHOLLYWOOD AT 7 PM JUNE 25TH. BRING YOUR OWN ACT AND COSTUME OR COME AND KNOCK YOURSELF OUT. CALL MISS ROSS AT NH 5645 WITH ACCEPTANCE OR ALIBI. SUPPER AT MIDNITE=

DIXIE AND BING CROSBY.

Invitation to Westwood Marching & Chowder Club party, 1938

THE WESTWOOD

Marching and Chowder Club

Presents

THE GINGERBREAD—JOHNNYCAKE MINSTRELS

"MEET THE CHARACTERS"

(T'hell with the people)

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1940

PROLOGUE

1. Opening Chorus "Hello, hello" ..... Ensemble
   a) Meet the End Men
   b) Laughs in the stationhouse
2. Introducing the Lovelies introducing the AmeriCAN-CAN! Bessie Burke, Flo Colonna, Connie Gallaudet, Phillippa Goodwin (Capt.), Dixie Lee, Ginger Mercer, Midge Polesie (a mother!), Kata Sexton ..... Down in Front!
3. A. Devine, (The silver throated thrush) In the Dogiehouse
4. Pancho Polesie ..... The number one beach boy baritone of the Barbadoes??
5. "Honey-Boy" Hope and a bad stooge ..... in "Blank Night"
6. The Four Natchez Nightingales (Augmented) ..... "Sweet Cider Time"
7. Big Bad Bess ..... A good turn, (That covers it . .
8. The Pat (O'Shaugnessy, O'Shame on ol' Notre Dame) O'Briens . O Yeah?—O Yeah!
9. Colonna and Mercer ..... or who killed Vaudeville???
10. Dillon Ober ..... Xylophony, without the aid of W. Mahoney
11. The Four Natchez Nightingales (Augmentative) ..... "Chesapeake Bay," okay?
12. Love vs Hawaii ..... "Papaya" Perry Botkin, Princess Poopooly Polesie, Tiny Titania Trotter
13. "Hambone"-Crosby ..... shhh, now you can go out for that highball
14. First Act Finale ..... "When You Wore a Tulip" Entire Company

INTERMISSION MUSIC BY THE "COME AND BRING YOUR HORN BOYS" NEVER MIND YOUR COATS, WATCH YOUR DRINKS. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR STOLEN MATERIAL. COMING ATTRACTION—W. M. & C. PARTY GOES EAST TO MEET HARVARD GLEE CLUB, ALSO THE YALES. INTERMISSION LASTS TWO DRINKS. FIND YOUR OWN SEAT. THAT IS ALL.

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Piano	Banjo and Uke	Drums
C. Lovere	P. Botkin	D. Ober
J. S. Trotter	J. Kern	H. L. Crosby
J. Monaco	J. Monaco	W. Hannen
H. Warren	D. Lee	Brass
H. Carmichael	Reads	M. Klein
J. Burke	J. H. Mayhew	J. Colonna
D. Hope	J. Burke	Strings
J. Colonna	K. Murray	S. Freed
	B. Goodman	(a real talent)

ACT TWO

1. The Sour Fatchezightingales (sokay, pal) ..... Down in Jungletown
2. Kenseration Murray ..... and stooge or clarinet?
3. Aunt Kitty ..... The Dancing Daguerreotype
4. "Ty" Frawley ..... He takes you where the dew is pearly (Assisted by the Fatchezunshoneoyrhciehxysvagdcxxz
5. Time out for repairs
6. Jerry Colonna ..... The Fullest Brush Man
7. The Daring Doctor Sexton ..... Direct from the World's Fair (Ladies will kindly leave the auditorium)
8. Ragtime Jimmy Monaco ..... Four Beers!!
9. (a) Elsie Butler ..... Courtesy Abbey Invalid Chair Co.
   (b) D. W. Unlucky ..... Courtesy Deanna Durbin Co.
10. You too can be an actor. Help yourself to the stage
11. Forget anyone?
12. The Four Natchez Nightingales (revived) ..... Coney Island Baby
13. Grand Finale (Whew!) "Waitin' for the Robert E. Lee" Everybody!

YET'S DANCE, CHILLUN

NOTE: This program is incorrect due to the lack of cooperation of certain actors (who shall be nameless but whose initials are B. H., B. C., P. O'B. and Ken Murray) and we hope you will forgive us. The Printer says he never will, never!

Stage Manager	Company Manager	Electrician
L. Earl Crosby	Ray Cardillo	Walter Hannen

Interlocutor—For which five minutes?

End Men—All radio actors—We couldn't get an eagle.

Program for 1940 edition of Westwood Marching & Chowder Club

Above left: Bessie Burke, Midge Polesie, Herb Polesie, Dixie Crosby, Johnny Burke, and Bing, 1938.

Above right: Bing's drum kit.

Right: Tommy Dorsey, Herb Polesie, Ozzie Nelson, and Pat O'Brien, 1938.

BINGANG

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY NUMBER

Kay Browning, Proxy & Editor
Camden, Mississippi

Published quarterly by -

Spring Issue — THE CLUB CROSBY — No.1,Vol.6,1941

HONORARY PRESIDENT ..... BING CROSBY
HONORARY V. PRESIDENT ..... LARRY CROSBY
Active V. President ..... Isabel Lee
Assistant Secretary ..... Philomena Vendetti
Representatives ..... Vera Patten, Willow Dean Wheeler
CLUB'S CUBS ..... GARY, DENNIS, PHILIP and LINDSAY
****

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Dixie Lee Crosby * * * Humphrey Bogart * * * * Frieda Inescort * * * James Stewart
Jeanette MacDonald * * * Basil Rathbone * * * * * Mary Carlisle * * * Spencer Tracy
Pat Friday * * * Pat O'Brien * * * Everett Crosby * * * Marie Wilson * * Pat Ellis
Mischa Auer * * * Bette Davis * * * Dixie Dunbar * * * Martha Raye * * * Bob Burns
Bob Crosby * * * * * * Tom Brown * * * * * * Arleen Whelan * * * * * * Judith Allen

BIRTHDAY, MAY 2

Dear Kay:

Happy Anniversary!

Our club certainly has been a loyal outfit these five years. I appreciate this, and hope the association has been enjoyable to all the members.

Sincerely,

Bing

This mimeographed cover-sheet from the 5th Anniversary Edition of *Bingang* is from Greg Van Beek's collection. The picture of Bing was hand-pasted onto each copy of the newsletter.

Bing Crosby Lifefile

Biography Magazine, © December 2002

HE was the 20th century's first multi-media entertainer, a star on radio, in movies, and a chart-topping singer—not even Elvis or the Beatles ever surpassed his 38 No. 1 singles. And he's especially remembered each December, when the world listens again to his classic recording of "White Christmas."

Harry Lillis Crosby was born May 3, 1903, in Tacoma, Washington, and grew up in Spokane. His congenial father, "Happy Harry," was a brewery bookkeeper, his mother Kate, a strong-willed homemaker. The fourth of seven children in the Irish Catholic family, he was his mother's favorite. Both parents loved music, and young Harry usually was singing or whistling. Around age 8, he got his nickname from a comic feature, *The Bingville Bugle.*

A good student with a Jesuit education, he entered college planning to become a lawyer. But after he bought a set of mail-order drums and joined a local band—where he discovered he was a far better singer than drummer—he quit school to pursue a show-business career. He toured the vaudeville circuit before joining the popular Paul Whiteman Orchestra, and made his first record in 1926.

He was in the right place at the right time. The amplification from the new electronic microphones meant a singer didn't have to be a "belter" to be heard--which perfectly suited his intimate, easy style. His early influence was jazz, but he sang everything: ballads, rhythm and blues, country and western, Irish lullabies, Hawaiian songs, religious hymns.

One of his inspirations was Louis Armstrong, who returned the admiration, describing his friend's mellow baritone as "like gold being poured out of a cup." That voice produced 22 gold records, among them "Swinging On A Star," "I'll Be Home For Christmas," and "True Love." He sang on radio at least weekly from 1931 to 1962. His *Kraft Music Hall* was radio's most popular show for 12 years, drawing up to 50 million listeners every Thursday night.

As a young adult he enjoyed carousing and drinking, and got another nickname: "Binge" Crosby. He once spent two months in jail for drunk driving after a minor car accident. He also liked to smoke marijuana, legal at the time. In the 1960s and '70s he would shock interviewers by advocating that pot be decriminalized.

He made over 60 movies, from *King of Jazz* in 1930 to *Stagecoach* in 1966. For 15 years he was among the Top 10 box office draws; from 1944-48 he was the No. 1 star. He earned three Academy Award nominations, and won the Oscar for playing a priest in 1944's *Going My Way.* Among his most popular films were the seven "Road" comedies *(Road To Singapore, Road To Zanzibar,* etc.) co-starring Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour.

His looks were not classic "matinee idol." At the start of his film career, the studio insisted on gluing back his "wingy" ears with spirit gum—he finally rebelled at the uncomfortable process. He also hated having to wear a toupee on his balding pate; in scripts he looked for outdoor scenes where he could wear a hat. During filming of *Road To Morocco,* he tried to convince the director to let him wear a hat in bed; they settled on a nightcap with a tassel. Bob Hope often joked about his buddy's motley wardrobe of torn sweaters, beat-up hats, and mismatched socks. At least for the latter, Bing had an excuse. He was color blind.

His leisure passions were golf, baseball, and horse racing. In 1937 he started the Bing Crosby Celebrity Pro-Am golf tournament and raised millions for charity. He bought his first thoroughbred in 1935 and helped create the famed Del Mar (California) racetrack. For more than 20 years he was part-owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team.

One of his greatest career satisfactions was entertaining U.S. troops in France and England during World War II. When he recorded "White Christmas" in 1942, it became an anthem for the soldiers. It remained the best-selling single for more than 50 years, surpassed only by Elton John's 1997 tribute to Princess Diana, "Candle In The Wind."

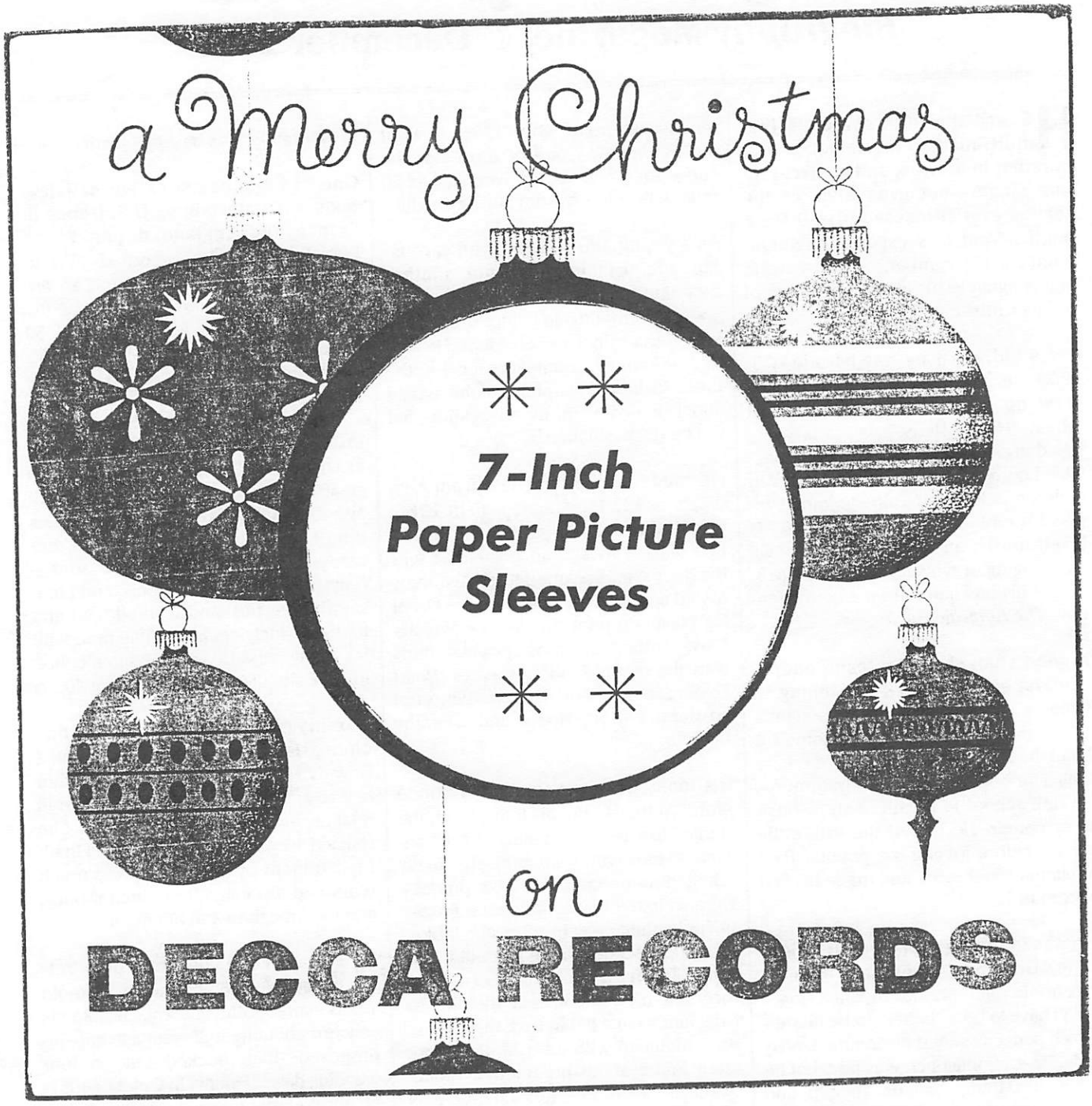
In 1930 he married actress and singer Dixie Lee. Her fame at the time was greater than his, and one headline read: "Well-Known Fox Movie Star Marries Bing Croveny." Dixie retired from her career and gave birth to four sons—Gary, twins Phillip and Dennis, and Lindsay But her husband worked hard and traveled widely, spending little time with his family, and Dixie turned to alcohol. In 1952 she died of cancer at age 40.

Like his mother, he was a tough disciplinarian. He didn't want "spoiled Beverly Hills brats" and used a leather belt to spank his four boys. Their adult relationships with him would be strained. He told a writer in 1959, "I think I failed them by giving them too much work and discipline, too much money, and too little time and attention.

He got a second chance to be a better parent. In 1953 he met 19-year-old Texas starlet Kathryn Grant. Despite his concern about their 30-year age gap, he proposed—then backed out on four wedding dates. Finally, In October 1957, he and Kathryn married privately in Las Vegas, and had three children: Harry Lillis, Mary Frances, and Nathaniel.

On October 10, 1977, in Brighton, England, he performed in a concert, and the next day he recorded "Once In A While" for the BBC. On October 14 in Madrid, Spain, he played a round of golf, and was walking off the 18th green when he collapsed and died from a massive heart attack. He was 74.

BY LINDA PETERSON

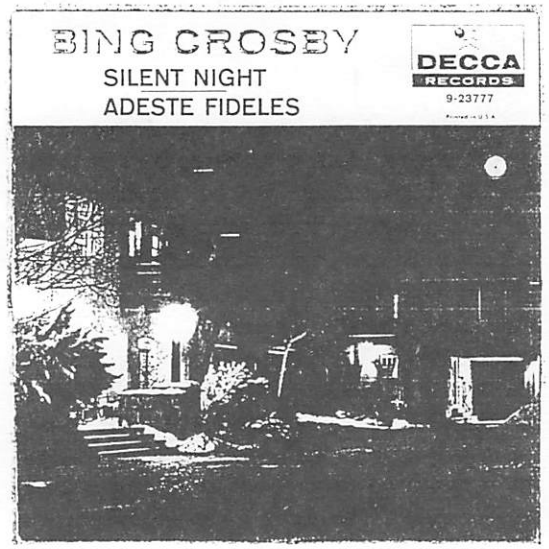


OVER the years, several of Bing's 45 rpm single releases sported picture sleeve jackets. Starting in the 1950s, when the 45 rpm format was introduced, these colorful sleeves usually appeared on a new product, so it could be featured on display shelves or in record store bins (Remember those?). Many current record pricing guides put a premium on records with these paper jackets still intact, and several even price the sleeves separately as collectibles unto themselves.

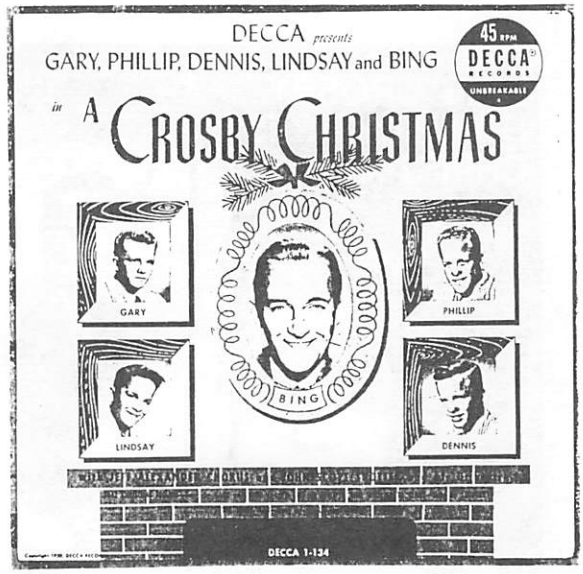
M. S.

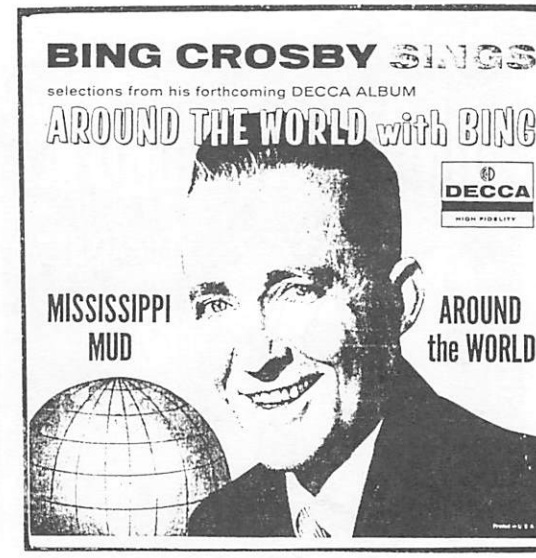
DECCA
RECORDS
9-23778
WHITE CHRISTMAS
GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN

WHITE CHRISTMAS
GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN
DECCA
RECORDS
9-23778


BING CROSBY
SILENT NIGHT
ADESTE FIDELES
DECCA
RECORDS
9-23777

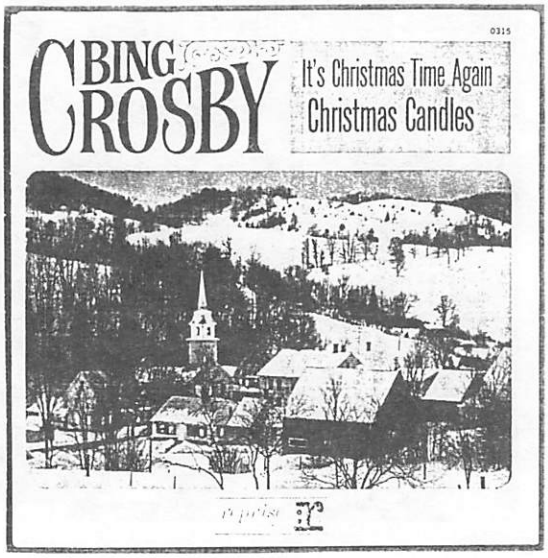
45 RPM
DECCA
Children's Series
BING CROSBY
RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER
THE TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC
DECCA
RECORDS


DECCA presents
GARY, PHILLIP, DENNIS, LINDSAY and BING
in A CROSBY CHRISTMAS
45 RPM
DECCA
RECORDS
UNBREAKABLE
GARY
PHILLIP
BING
LINDSAY
DENNIS
DECCA 1-134


BING CROSBY SINGS
selections from his forthcoming DECCA ALBUM
AROUND THE WORLD with BING
DECCA
HIGH FIDELITY
MISSISSIPPI MUD
AROUND the WORLD

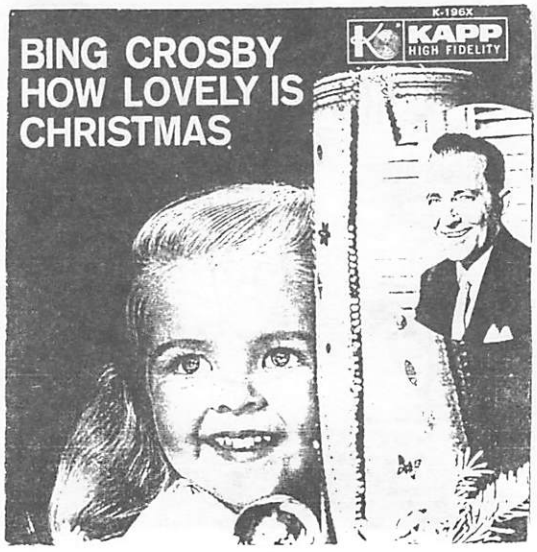
DECCA
Bing Christmastime
Bing Crosby sings
WHITE CHRISTMAS
SILENT NIGHT
JINGLE BELLS
(with the Andrews Sisters)
SILVER BELLS

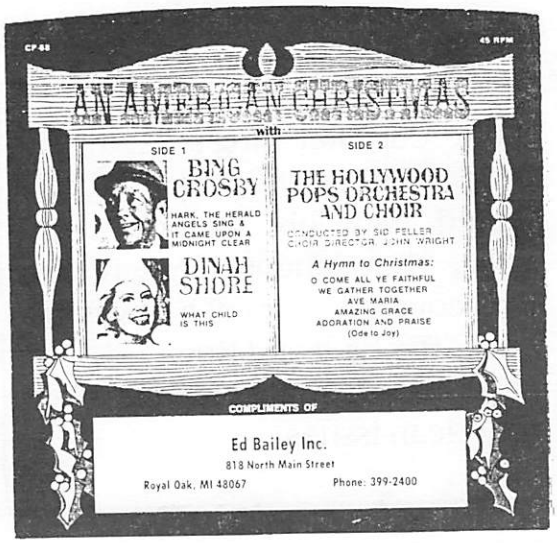
DECCA
Curtain Call SERIES
Musical Milestones in the Career of BING CROSBY
45 RPM
DECCA
I SURRENDER DEAR
WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT MEETS THE GOLD OF THE DAY
Bing Crosby

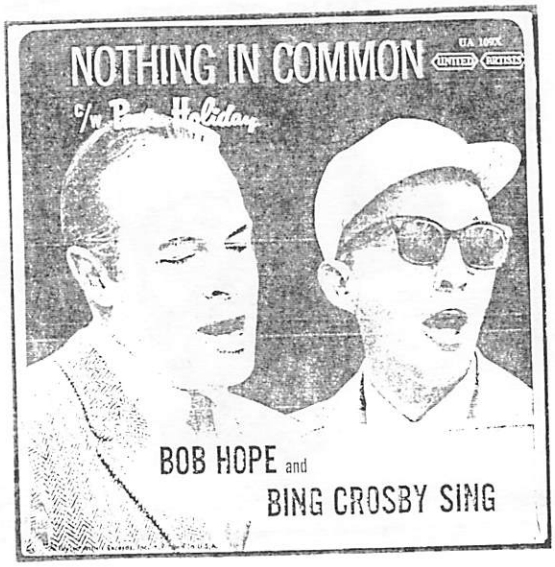

BING CROSBY
It's Christmas Time Again
Christmas Candles
reprise

FRANK SINATRA
BING CROSBY
DEAN MARTIN
THE OLDEST ESTABLISHED (PERMANENT FLOATING CRAP GAME IN NEW YORK)
B/W
Fugue for Tinhorns
reprise

Two Swingin' Sides from the New MGM Album...
K-12961
BING & SATCHMO
MGM
HIGH FIDELITY
DARDANELLA
and
MUSKRAT RAMBLE
Arranged and Conducted by
BILLY MAY

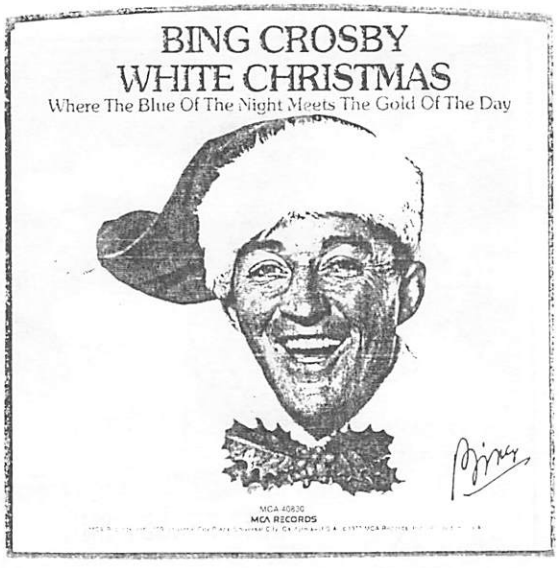

K-196X
KAPP
HIGH FIDELITY
BING CROSBY
HOW LOVELY IS CHRISTMAS

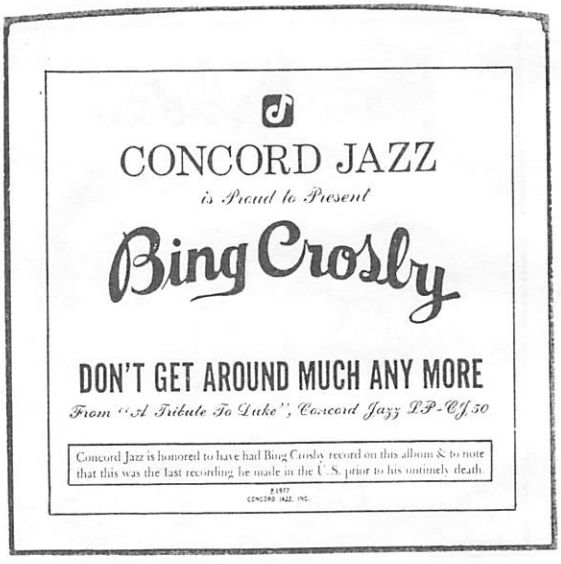




The top two sleeves on this page were give-aways from American Motors and Crowley's Milk respectively. The Hope and Crosby cover is an unusual one featuring a different picture on each side. The "Best of Bing" cover is actually a jukebox record featuring three Bing hits on each side.

The four sleeves pictured below all came out after Bing's death. The song "White Christmas" is now paired with his famous theme song. The Concord Jazz release was covered in detail a few issues back. The Bing and Bowie cover is shown for both the Japanese and American issues.





WHO WAS IT SAID "REVENGE IS SWEET" ?

Bing's triumphant return to New York's Paramount Theatre on November 6, 1931 as reviewed the next day in the pages of *VARIETY*

VARIETY

PARAMOUNT, N. Y.

New York, Nov. 7.

Flexability of the Paramount's stage policy, particularly the manner in which it allows strong and special build-ups for any names that may be secured, is probably its great advantage over the unit system. Bing Crosby is the featured stage personality this week. Doubtful whether the theatre could have been so helpful for this singing single if confined to a unit's limitations.

Crosby (New Acts) is on the stage twice and a third time sings off-stage as accompanist for a dance production. There's no chance for anyone ever to forget that he's the big man this week. Not a bad method, either, especially when the central figure stands up under the plugging strain. Crosby does.

Picture is Ruth Chatterton's 'Once a Lady' (Par). Rubinoff and the Crawford's standard house features contribute their usual guarantee against complete floppage for any Par theatre bill. Combination Saturday afternoon was drawing good enough biz, though not capacity.

Stage show opens and closes on Crosby as the center of the picture. Starter is an interior set lighted from the rear for silhouette effect. Crosby is singing to a girl. When the traveler closes Crosby steps up to the apron for the customary 'I'm glad to be here' hoke. His second song is delivered while seated on the rising organ, played by Mrs. Crawford. He steps back to the apron for his third vocal, this bringing the show into full stage and the first girl number.

An introductory Oriental in exotic costumes plus Chinese silver fingernails by the Danny Dare girls precedes Vanessi's first dance. Before getting into action she poses scantily clad during the line girls' routine. Vanessi knows how to sell appearance through dancing and she does it in both chances here. The second is the rumba from her vaudeville turn, danced in the final scene of this presentation.

Jimmy Conlin and Myrtle Glass in their knockabout pianolog divide the two main stage parts. As an idea of what a mugger is up against in a picture house, Conlin seemed almost good looking here. But his piano stuff and comedy alone and with Miss Glass couldn't be missed or miss anywhere. They have a fat boy in support now. He hoofs and ghosts offstage for the dancing curtain biz.

Cafe set for the finish, with Crosby called on twice to sing. His stuff is carried through a mike wherever he stands, making it seem the stage is flooded with microphones. Two are in the open.

In Crosby the Paramount has a single who entertains and perhaps a name that will attract a little money. Another CBS radio turn, also vocal, is booked in the Paramount for later on. Paramount-Publix is making use of its radio affiliation. Makes RKO look that much worse for failing to capitalize its own (NBC) opportunities.

Bige.

TIMES SQUARE AND PARAMOUNT BUILDING, NEW YORK CITY

New CD Releases

By Chick Wilson, Select Circles

OUR thanks go to Chick Wilson of Select Circles for supplying information on the new CD releases which have become available since our last issue. Chick provided all the information listed unless otherwise noted. The prices given are those charged by Select Circles. Shipping charges are extra: $2.00 for one or two CDs (first-class mail) and $3.85 for three CDs or more (priority mail). Check with them for overseas rates. Multiple disc sets count as the number of CDs in the set. Address: P. O. Box 302, Riverside, CT 06878; phone (203) 661-8421.

MAGIC MOMENTS. Bing with the Buddy Cole Trio with special guest Rosemary Clooney (*). GAV GAVCD-1006, $18.00.

1. Magic Moments. 2. From This Moment On. 3. Breezin' Along With The Breeze. 4. Ukelele Lady. 5. *Medley: It's Been A Long, Long Time; Life Is Just A Bowl Of Cherries; Gimme A Little Kiss, Will Ya, Huh? 6. If I Give My Heart To You. 7. My Own True Love. 8. Scarlet Ribbons. 9. It's A Most Unusual Day. 10. *What Takes My Fancy. 11. Catch A Falling Star. 12. Witchcraft. 13. Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral. 14. My Little Grass Shack. 15. *You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To. 16. The Village of Bernadette. 17. That's All I Want From You. 18. My, How The Time Goes By. 19. Thank Heavens For Little Girls. 20. *Medley: Moon Over Miami; Meet Me Tonight In Dreamland; There's A Long, Long Trail. 21. Thou Swell. 22. Love And Marriage. 23, Cock-Eyed Mayor of Kaunakakai. 24. Hot Diggity. 25. *Singing In The Rain. 26. Among My Souvenirs. 27. S' Wonderful. 28. Arriverderci Roma. 29. All The Way. 30. *I May Be Wrong.

THE BING CROSBY SHOW, VOL. 2, with the Buddy Cole Trio, Lindsay Crosby and Ken Carpenter. HLC 6654, $18.

Jan. 10, 1955: 1. Show Open. 2. Oh! Look At Me Now. 3. Thoughts On Thinking. 4. I've Got My Love To Keep Me Warm. 5. Whither Thou Goest. *Jan. 11, 1955:* 6. Show Open. 7. Papa Loves Mambo. 8. Who Watching Hope? 9. Muskrat Ramble (Lindsay Crosby) 10. I'm A Fool To Care. 11. Tobermory Bay. *Jan. 12, 1955:* 12. Show Open. 13. Love And Learn. 14. Drifting Backwards. 15. Somebody Loves Me. 16. It's Mine And It's Yours. 17.No Other Love. *Jan. 13, 1955:* 18. Show Open. 19. Honeysuckle Rose. 20. I Need You Now. 21. Mobile (Lindsay). 22. Count Your Blessings. *Jan. 14, 1955:* 23. Pennies From Heaven. 24. Bing's Filing System. 25. Who Gave You The Roses? 26. Do You Ever Think Of Me? 27. The Land Around Us. 28. Show Close.

BING CROSBY: ANOTHER RIDE IN COWBOY COUNTRY. Jasmine 3558, $12.

1. I'm An Old Cowhand. 2. Be Honest With Me. 3. Along The Santa Fe Trail. 4. It Makes No Difference Now. 5. San Antonio Rose. 6. When The Bloom Is On The Sage. 7. Walking The Floor Over You. 8. Deep In The Heart Of Texas. 9. Careless Hands. 10. Pistol Packin' Mama (w/Andrews Sis.). 11. Have I Told You Lately That I Love You? (w/Andrews Sis.). 12. El Rancho Grande. 13. Along The Navajo Trail (w/Andrews Sis.) 14. Riders In The Sky. 15. Twilight On The Trail. 16. Jingle, Jangle, Jingle (w/Mary Martin). 17. It's A Lonely Trail. 18. Cool Water (w/Andrews Sis.). 19. Copper Canyon. 20. Dear Hearts And Gentle People. 21. Sierra Sue. 22. We'll Rest At The End Of The Trail.

BING CROSBY: GOING HOLLYWOOD, Vol. 4, 1944-1949. Jasmine 130/31, 2 CDs, $21.

CD 1: *Here Come The Waves (1944):* 1. Moonlight Becomes You. 2. That Old Black Magic. 3. Let's Take The Long Way Home. 4. Ac-cent-tchu-ate The Positive. 5. I Promise You. *Out Of ThisWorld (1945):* 6. Out Of This World. 7. I'd Rather Be Me. 8. June Comes Around Every Year. *Duffy's Tavern (1945):* 9. Swinging On A Star. *The Bells Of St. Mary's (1945):* 10. Aren't You Glad You're You? 11. Adeste Fidelis. 12. O Sanctissima. 13. In The Land Of Beginning Again. 14. The Bells Of St. Mary's. *Blue Skies (1946):* 15. I've Got My Captain Working For Me Now. 16. I'm Putting All My Eggs In One Basket/Cheek To Cheek. 17. All By Myself. 18. I'll See You In C-U-B-A. 19. A Couple Of Song And Dance Men. 20. You Keep Coming Back Like A Song. 21. What'll I Do/All Alone/Remember. 22. Blue Skies. 23. The Little Things In Life/Not For All The Rice In China. 24. Everybody Step. 25. How Deep Is The Ocean? 26. Say It Isn't So. 27. Getting Nowhere. 28. Any Bonds Today?/This Is The Army, Mr. Jones/White Christmas. **CD 2:** *Welcome Stranger (1947):* 1. Smile Right Back At The Sun. 2. Country Style. 3. My Heart Is A Hobo. 4. As Long As I'm Dreaming. *Variety Girl (1947);* 5. Harmony. *The Emperor Waltz (1948):* 6. The Friendly Mountains. 7. I Kiss Your Hand, Madame. 8. The Kiss In Your Eyes. 9. Get Yourself A Phonograph. 10. The Emperor Waltz. 11. The Whistler And His Dog. *Road To Rio (1948).* 12. Apalachicola, FLA (includes Swanee River). 13. But Beautiful. 14. You Don't Have To Know The Language. 15. For What? 16. Batuque Nio Morro. *A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur's Court (1949);* 17. If You Stub Your Toe On The Moon. 18. Once And For Always. 19. Busy Doing Nothing. *Top O' The Morning (1949): 20. Top O' The Morning.* 21. When Irish Eyes Are Smiling. 22. Kitty Of Coleraine. 23. The Donovans. 24. You're In Love With Someone. 25. Oh, 'Tis Sweet To Think. 26. Top O' The Morning.

AFRS SHOWTIME—BING CROSBY AND DINAH SHORE. Blip BLCR-105, $18.

Part One: A tribute to Jimmy McHugh, hosted and sung by Dinah Shore, Episode #199 (no Bing). Part Two: "Dixie," starring Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour, Episode #259: 1. Show Open. 2. Act One. 3. Swing Low, Sweet Chariot. 4. Act Two. 5. She's From Missouri. 6. Act Three. 7. A Horse Who

Knows The Way Back Home. 8. Act Four. 9. If You Please. 10. Act Five. 11. Sunday, Monday Or Always. 12. Dixie. 13. Show Close.

HIT THE ROAD WITH BING AND BOB. Jasmine 127/8. 2-CD set, $21.

CD 1: *Road To Singapore:* 1. Introduction. 2. Captain Custard (Bing & Bob). 3. The Moon And The Willow Tree (Dorothy Lamour). 4. Sweet Potato Piper (Bing). 5. Carry Me Back To Old Virginny (Jerry Colonna). 6. & 7. Too Romantic (Bing). 8. Finale. *Road To Zanzibar:* 9. Introduction/You Lucky People You (Bing). 10. African Etude (Bing & chorus). 11. You're Dangerous (Dorothy). 12. It's Always You (Bing). 13. It's Always You (Bing, Bob & Dorothy). 14. Finale. *Road To Morocco:* 15. Introduction. 16. The Road To Morocco (Bing & Bob). 17. Ain't Got A Dime To My Name (Bing). 18. Constantly (Dorothy) 19. Moonlight Becomes You (Bing). 20. Moonlight Becomes You (Bing, Bob & Dorothy). 21. Finale. **CD 2:** *Road To Utopia:* 1. Introduction. 2. Goodtime Charlie (Bing & Bob). 3. It's Anybody's Spring (Bing). 4. Personality (Dorothy). 5. Welcome To My Dream (Bing). 6. Put It There, Pal (Bing & Bob). 7. Would You? (Dorothy). 8. Welcome To My Dream (Bing). *Road To Rio:* 9. Introduction. 10. Apalachicola, FLA (Bing & Bob). 11. But Beautiful (Bing). 12. You Don't Have To Know The Language (Bing & Andrews Sis.). 13. Experience (Dorothy). 14. Batuque Nio Morro (Carioca Boys, Bing & Bob). 15. Finale. *Road To Bali:* 16. Introduction. 17. Chicago Style (Bing & Bob). 18. The Whiffenpoof Song (Bing & Bob). 19. Moonflowers (Dorothy). 20 Hoot Mon (Bing & Bob). 21. To See You Is To Love You (Bing). 22. The Merry-Go-Runaround (Bing, Bob & Dorothy). 23. Moonflowers (Dorothy). 24. Finale.

BING CROSBY: COWBOY COUNTRY CROSBY STYLE. Jasmine 3557, $12.

1. Country Style. 2. Ridin' Down The Canyon. 3. Who Calls? 4. My Little Buckaroo. 5. Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride. 6. Gotta Get Me Somebody To Love. 7. Blue Shadows On The Trail. 8. Nobody's Darlin' But Mine. 9. Empty Saddles. 10. Silver On The Sage. 11. You Are My Sunshine. 12. Roundup Lullaby. 13. Don't Fence Me In. 14. Lone Star Trail. 15. Mule Train. 16. Prairieland Lullaby. 17. Home On The Range. 18. You Don't Know What Lonesome Is. 19. Tumbling Tumbleweeds. 20. Take Me Back To My Boots And Saddle. 21. The Last Round-Up.

BING CROSBY & AL JOLSON: THE GREAT RADIO PERFORMANCES. Der Bingle Radio Years, Vol. 1, $16.

1. *Chesterfield Show, 5-3-50, guests Ella Fitzgerald and Al Jolson:* The Horse Told Me (Bing) / Blue Shadows On The Trail (Bing) / I Hadn't Anyone Till You (Ella) / Stay with the Happy People (Bing & Ella) / Give My Regards To Broadway (Al) / Avalon (Bing & Al) / Lullaby of Broadway (Bing & Al). 2. All By Myself / Alexander's Ragtime Band / Easter Parade (Bing & Al, 5-7-47). 3. Bye, Bye Baby (Bing, 1-1-50).4. Mammy (Al). 5. Rainy Night In Rio (Bing, 1-15-47). 6. Sunbonnet Sue (Bing & Al, 1-4-50). 7. A Pretty Girl Is Like A Melody (Bing & Al, 12-3-47). *Bing and Al: The Great Radio Duets:* 8. Linda (Bing, 5-7-47). 9. Swanee (Al, 1-15-47). 10. My Old Kentucky Home (Bing & Al, 5-3-50). 11. Nobody (Bing) / In The Evening By The Moonlight / Beautiful Dreamer / Back Home In Indiana / Alabamy Bound (Bing & Al, 4-2-47). 12. Blues My Naughty Sweetie Gave To Me (Bing, 4-2-47). 13. Lady Of Spain (Bing, 2-26-53). 14. Let Me Sing And I'm Happy (Al, 3-5-47).

BING, AL, ETHEL AND MARY BRING YOU BACK TO THE RADIO DAYS OF THE LATE '40's. Der Bingle Radio Years, Vol. 2, $16.

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THE BELL SISTERS. Jasmine 634, 2-CD set, $14.

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FOUR NEW JONZOS!

We are fairly certain that all Club Crosby members know about the Jonzo "Chronological Bing Crosby" series. If you are not, please note that they are available

in the U.S.A. only from Wig Wiggins, 5608 N. 34th St., Arlington, VA 22207. They are sold for $20 per CD, post paid. To date, 33 volumes have been completed—all of Bing's commercial recordings from 1926-1942 in all available takes. You may purchase just one volume or the whole set. Write to Wig for details. Here are the volumes issued since the winter 2002-3 issue of this journal. W.M.

THE CHRONOLOGICAL BING CROSBY, Volumes 30-33.

Vol. 30, Dec. 30, 1940-June 18, 1941: 1. Chapel In The Valley. 2-4. I Only Want A Buddy—Not A Sweetheart (Tk A & two rejected takes). 5. When Day Is Done. 6. My Buddy. 7. Who Calls? 8. Lullaby (Cradle Song). 9. You And I. 10. Be Honest With Me. 11-12. Goodbye, Little Darlin', Goodbye (Tks A & B). 13. The Waiter And The Porter And The Upstairs Maid. 14. Birth Of The Blues. 15. Clementine. 16. The Old Oaken Bucket. 17. 'Til Reveille. 18-19. Sweetheart Of Sigma Chi (Rehearsal & Tk A). 20. Sweetly She Sleeps, My Alice Fair. 21. Dream Girl of Pi K. A. 22. I Wonder What's Become Of Sally. 23. Old Black Joe. 24. Mary's A Grand Old Name.

Vol. 31, July 5-30, 1941: 1. Oh, How I Miss You Tonight. 2. Don't Break The Spell. 3. Dear Little Boy Of Mine. 4-5. Nell And I (Tks A & B). 6. Danny Boy. 7-8. Where The Turf Meets The Surf (Tks A &B). 9. You Are My Sunshine. 10. Ridin' Down The Canyon. 11. Flores Negras (You're The Moment Of A Lifetime). 12-13. No Te Importe Saber (Let Me Love You Tonight) (Tks A & B). 14-15. Ol' Man River (Tks A & B). 16. Day Dreaming. 17. Darling, Je Vous Aime Beaucoup. 18. The Anniversary Waltz. 19. Let's All Meet At My House. 20. Humpty Dumpty Heart. 21-23. The Whistler's Mother-In-Law (Tks A, B & C). 24. I Ain't Got Nobody.

Vol. 32, Oct. 24, 1941-March 13, 1942: 1. Shepherd Serenade. 2. Do You Care? 3. I Want My Mama (Mama Yo Quiero). 4. Deep In The Heart Of Texas. 5. I'm Thinking Tonight Of My Blue Eyes. 6. Sing Me A Song Of The Islands. 7. I'm Drifting Back To Dreamland. 8. The Singing Sands of Alamosa. 9. Remember Hawaii. 10. Miss You. 11-12. Mandy Is Two (Tks A & B). 13. Angels Of Mercy. 14-15. Skylark (Tks A & B). 16. Nobody's Darlin' But Mine. 17. When The White Azaleas Start Blooming. 18. The Lamplighter's Serenade. 19. Blue Shadows And White Gardenias. 20. Blues In The Night. 21. Moonlight Cocktail. 22. I Don't Want To Walk Without You. 23. Lily of Laguna. 24. Wait Till The Sun Shines, Nellie.

Vol. 33, March 18-June 10, 1942: 1. Got The Moon In My Pocket. 2. Just Plain Lonesome. 3. The Waltz Of Memory. 4. Lazy. 5-6. Let's Start The New Year Right (Tks A & B). 7. I've Got Plenty To Be Thankful For. 8. I'll Capture Your Heart. 9. When My Dreamboat Comes Home. 10. Walking The Floor Over You. 11-12. White Christmas (Tks A & B). 13. Abraham. 14. Song Of Freedom. 15. The Bombardier Song. 16. Easter Parade. 17. Happy Holiday. 18. Be Careful, It's My Heart. 19. Adeste Fideles. 20. Silent Night, Holy Night. 21. Faith Of Our Fathers. 22. God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen. 23. Conchita, Marquita, Lolita, Pepita, Rosita Juanita Lopez. 24-25. Road To Morocco (Tks A & B). 26. Ain't Got A Dime To My Name.

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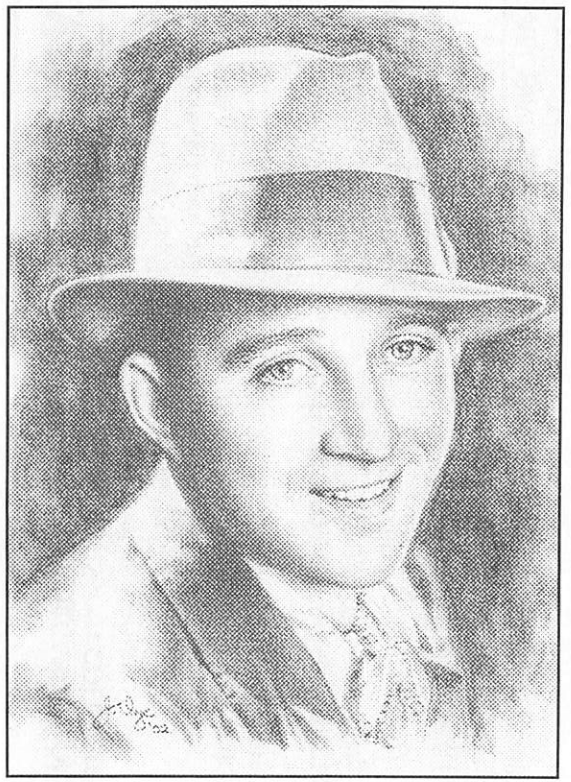

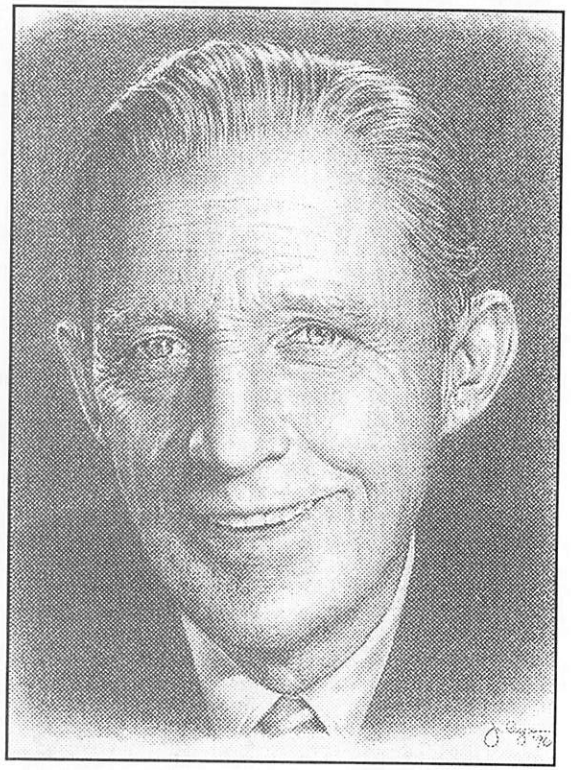

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